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

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Photo: Hadash Abreha

India foresees enhanced relations with Ethiopia

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA - The economic exchange between Ethiopia and India is growing as the two key players in the developing world are members of the BRICS bloc, Indian Ambassador to Ethiopia said.

In an exclusive interview with *The Ethiopian Herald* yesterday, Ambassador Anil Kumar Rai highlighted that both nations have maintained strong diplomatic and economic ties, reinforced by high-level exchanges and collaborative summits.

In August, India hosted the Global South summit, where Ethiopia's Prime Minister represented the African continent. The summit was instrumental in underlining the importance of Ethiopia's role within the Global South, since the east African nation officially joined BRICS, a platform for continued cooperation among major developing economies, he said.

The Ambassador noted that Ethiopia's inclusion in BRICS will further strengthen its ability to influence

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Professor Mesfin Araya.

ENDC to launch key discussions in six-month

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA - The Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission (ENDC) has announced plans to launch the main National Dialogue council in six months, according to Chief Commissioner Professor Mesfin Araya.

In an interview with the Ethiopian ... See ENDC to launch ... Page 3



Ethiopia's coffee export hits record high profit

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA - Ethiopia has secured a record-breaking profits of over 196 million USD from 42,322 tons of exported coffee just last month, Ethiopian Coffee and Tea Authority announced.

The information obtained from the authority indicated that the country has generated over 196 million USD exporting 42,322 tons of coffee last month, a record high foreign currency earnings registered in a month from the export of the cash crop in the history of the country.

Authority's Director General, Adugna Debelu (PhD) stated that the revenue obtained from coffee exported last month

See Ethiopia's coffee ... Page 3

Ethiopia celebrates diplomatic successes amid challenges

• Strengthens int'l relations

BY MESERETBEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA - Despite numerous challenges, Ethiopia has achieved significant diplomatic milestones over the past year, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA).

Former MoFA Spokesperson Ambassador Nebiyu Tedla stated that Ethiopia has successfully navigated various international issues, signing 12 bilateral agreements with neighboring countries, 71 agreements aimed at advancing national interests, and ratifying 140 other agreements. Additionally, 195 resolutions were passed at international conferences, with high-level diplomatic visits conducted across Europe and Asia during the fiscal year.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) led delegations to several countries, including Tanzania, China, Russia, Italy, Malta, South Africa, the Czech Republic, Germany, Australia, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and South Korea. These visits strengthened bilateral and multilateral relationships and



Mulugeta Debele (PhD)

advanced Ethiopia's national interests, with 44 high-level official visits occurring last year alone.

Ambassador Nebiyu also highlighted Ethiopia's active participation in multilateral diplomacy, with the country engaging in 501 sessions at the United Nations and other global forums. Key sectors such as tourism, education, petroleum, and transport saw agreements signed with neighboring countries, while the exchange of convicted



Nebiyu Tedla

and imprisoned citizens was another area of cooperation.

"Though it had encountered tenacious challenges, Ethiopia is continuing with meticulous and strong diplomacy that has enabled it to ensure its national interest. Tourism, education, capacity building, petroleum, and transport are among the main areas that Ethiopia was signed agreements

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News



Beriso Amelo (PhD)

ESLSE toiling to improve services, earnings

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA – Ethiopia's shipping and logistics enterprise unveiled massive infrastructure expansion projects in its eight dry ports in order to provide improved services at home and abroad.

The Ethiopian Shipping and Logistics Service Enterprise (ESLSE) disclosed that it has planned to expand services at home and across the globe through improving the accessibility and quality of services this Ethiopian fiscal year.

The ESLSE Chief Executive Officer Beriso Amelo (PhD) told local media that the enterprise is primarily working focus on cross-border trade transportation and improve customer service provision in a bid to further strengthen its competitiveness and accessibility. It has been undertaking various activities to enable customers to access its services from home via technology-assisted platforms and messages.

Mentioning the 7.5 million tons of shipment managed by ESLSE last year, the CEO expressed that this year, the enterprise expects a 10% increase as it expands destinations to provide more accessible and competitive shipping and logistics services in the world.

According to him, ESLSE also planned to generate 60 billion Birr revenue this Ethiopian fiscal year, which has a three billion Birr increment from last year's earnings.

Last year, the enterprise had achieved a twofold performance withstanding global security and other challenges thereby increasing country's global influence, like Ethiopian Airlines, for providing improved services in 345 ports across the globe. Therefore, Beriso stressed that ESLSE's services are the backbone of Ethiopia's economy.

Ethiopian wins prestigious 'Outstanding Tourism Transportation Award'

ADDIS ABABA (ENA) - The Ethiopian Airlines Group won the Prestigious 'Outstanding Tourism Transportation Award' at Africa Tourism Leadership Forum.

"Ethiopian Airlines is thrilled to announce that it has been bestowed with the coveted 'Outstanding Tourism Transportation Award' at the 2024 Africa Tourism Leadership Forum (ATLF) held in Gaborone, Botswana," the group stated.

This prestigious accolade recognizes tourism transportation organizations that consistently deliver the highest standards of service to travelers while upholding strong sustainability and environmental credentials.

The award specifically highlights the most reliable and efficient transportation companies serving all destinations across the African continent, including remote tourism hotspots.

Ethiopian Airlines' triumph is a testament to its unwavering commitment to connecting Africa and the world through a seamless and exceptional travel experience.

The airline's extensive global network, coupled with its pioneering initiatives towards sustainability and its dedication to service excellence, played a pivotal role in securing this distinguished recognition.

"We are honored to receive this prestigious award," said Mesfin Tasew, Group CEO of Ethiopian Airlines.

"This recognition validates our unwavering commitment to providing our passengers with the highest quality of service and fostering sustainable tourism



across Africa. As a Pan-African and the largest network operator in Africa, our vision has always been to connect Africa to the world, and the world to Africa, and this recognition from ATLF encourages us to set the bar even higher."

The African Travel and Leadership Forum serves as a premier Pan-African platform, fostering dialogue among pivotal contributors to Africa's travel, tourism, hospitality, and aviation sectors.

This forum facilitates networking, the exchange of insights, and the formulation of strategies to bolster intra-continental travel and tourism, thereby augmenting

the brand value of "Destination Africa."

The ATLF Awards are distinguished as the inaugural Pan-African accolades dedicated to acknowledging African-driven innovation, excellence, and transformative initiatives within the travel and tourism sphere. Furthermore, Ethiopian Airlines is at the forefront of promoting tourism across Africa.

Through its subsidiary, Ethiopian Holidays, it provides an array of travel packages that are integrated with its vast destination network, thus enhancing the interdependent relationship between tourism and air transport.

Ethiopia joins World Skills as 88th full member

• *Youths compete in Global Skills "Olympics"*

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA - Ethiopia has officially become the 88th full member of the International Skills Organization (World Skills), the Ministry of Labor and Skills (MoLS) announced. The membership certificate was awarded on September 12, 2024.

Minister Muferihat Kamil hailed this achievement as a significant milestone, marking the beginning of a new chapter for Ethiopia in the Ethiopian New Year 2017.

The 47th World Skills Competition, dubbed the "Olympics of Skills," is being held in Lyon, France, from September 10-15. Ethiopian youth are participating in this global event for the first time, competing in three skill sectors: ICT and networking, CNC machining, and furniture making. The competition, which features the presence of French President Emmanuel Macron, showcases top talent from around the world.

According to MoLS, Ethiopia's membership in the International Skills Organization



offers valuable benefits, including fostering industry connections with other nations, exchanging expertise in skill development, and learning from the political, economic, and social experiences of other countries to enhance its own skill sector.

The World Skills Competition, running

until September 15, 2024, is the largest vocational and skills event in the world. With 1,400 competitors from 69 countries and regions, the event is expected to attract 250,000 attendees and highlights excellence across more than 60 skill categories, contributing to the global economy.

News

Bonga accelerates infrastructural growth to boost tourism, investment

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA – Significant infrastructural expansion and revitalization efforts are underway in Bonga Town, aimed at enhancing public spaces and attracting tourism and investment, according to Mayor Asmamaw Ademe.

In an exclusive interview with the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Mayor Asmamaw highlighted the town's growing infrastructural developments, designed to make Bonga a more livable city and a preferred destination for investors. As the seat of the Southwest Ethiopia People's State Administration and a political hub, the town is undergoing large-scale redevelopment covering 44 hectares of land.

The mayor also revealed that the administration has raised over 136 million Birr from the local community to support the ongoing redevelopment and renovation projects. A key initiative is the 23-kilometer corridor development project, which is nearing completion and expected to enhance the town's road infrastructure.

Additionally, Bonga University is constructing the National Coffee Museum, which will feature parking lots and other development amenities. The town is also



Photo: Berihun Tadele

Asmamaw Ademe

promoting youth employment through poultry farming projects that help stabilize the local market.

With natural attractions like God's Bridge, Andracha Medhanealem, Tongola Mosque, and Barta Waterfall, the town is supporting investors in the hotel and tourism sectors. Nearly 60 high-end guest accommodations at Lewi Resort are nearing completion for the Kafficho New Year festival, while 20 lodges built by Bonga University are already operational.

Mayor Asmamaw reaffirmed the administration's commitment to improving health, education, and job creation while pledging to continue supporting potential investors in the state.

ENDC to launch...

Press Agency (EPA), Prof. Mesfin shared that the commission is nearing the completion of its agenda-gathering process in all areas except for the Amhara and Tigray states, along with two city administrations, within the next two months.

Over the past two and a half years, the commission has been engaged in identifying participants and gathering key agenda items for the dialogue. As the Ethiopian New Year begins, the commission plans to hold in-depth discussions on critical national issues to build a broad consensus.

This year will be crucial for all commissioners as they work to finalize the agenda gathering process across ten states and two city administrations. So far, input has been collected from over 1,000 districts nationwide.

The Chief Commissioner highlighted that agenda gathering is already in progress in states such as Benishangul-Gumuz, Central Ethiopia, and Harari, with similar efforts set to begin in the Somali and Afar states soon. Once the situation stabilizes in Tigray and Amhara, the commission will resume its work in those areas, ensuring the process stays on track.

Prof. Mesfin extended his New Year's wishes, encouraging all to set aside divisions and focus on learning from past challenges to create a stronger and more united Ethiopia.

Many Ethiopians set high expectations on the National Dialogue's capability to address the age-old and contentious problems and transform the nation into a lasting peace and prosperity.

Ethiopia's coffee...

has broken the records of the previous months. Compared with the authority's plan, the current coffee export was increased by 165% in amount and 143 % additional revenue.

He pointed out that the performance of the two months of July and August enabled the country to earn 377 million USD by exporting 82, 853 tons of coffee. Compared with the past similar period, the current months have 110 million USD (41%) additional revenue and 32,955 tons (66%)

addition in terms of volume.

It was to be recalled that the country has earned 1.43 billion USD from exporting 298,500 tons of coffee in 2023/24 fiscal year. Currently, Ethiopian coffee product is being exported to more than 60 countries across the globe where U.S, Germany, Belgium, Japan, Spain, and Saudi Arabia are the leading destinations. Ethiopia's coffee is also traded in Middle East and Far East markets.

India to host health conference in Addis Ababa

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA – Addis Ababa would host India's health conference slated for October first designed to bring global healthcare stakeholders together to consolidate cooperation and create synergies towards holistic healthcare, Embassy of India announced.

The embassy stated that India would organize the conference on "one earth, one health and healthcare beyond boundaries" on 1 October 2024 in Addis Ababa.

In a press release sent to *The Ethiopian Herald*, the Embassy of India expressed that the event will strengthen the global ecosystem for health-related issues for bringing all the stakeholders in a single platform to share their ideas and work towards creating synergies.

The release indicated that the Embassy of India to Ethiopia and Permanent Mission to the African Union will organize the event in order to further strengthen health related concepts.

The statement also added that these concepts are also aligned with the health-related objectives of the African Union's Agenda 2063 and United Nation's Agenda 2030.

According to the embassy, the participants of the conference are policy makers, hospitals and medical professionals including traditional medicine experts, medical value travel professionals, international organizations, national representatives and other stakeholders.

The historic and path breaking diplomatic initiative taken by India during G-20 Presidency last year resulted in Permanent Membership to African Union in G-20, the statement mentioned.

Accordingly, one of the important outcomes of the initiative was India's call for One Earth, One Health and Healthcare beyond Boundaries which has vision to strengthen the global ecosystem for health-related needs while ensuring quality, affordability and accessibility of top-quality healthcare for all, the embassy recalled.

India foresees...

global discussions and growth models within the African context.

"Ethiopia's history, economy, and youthful population make it unique not only in Africa but also among developing nations," he remarked.

He added that Ethiopia's recent policy reforms have the potential to transform its economic landscape, with BRICS providing opportunities to exchange knowledge and explore alternative growth models.

This, in turn, could inspire other African nations, he added.

Furthermore, BRICS offers Ethiopia the potential to benefit from initiatives like trading in local currencies and exploring a unified BRICS currency. Such mechanisms, along with economic liberalization policies, could help making Ethiopia's economy more resilient and self-reliant, the Ambassador commented.

Through these partnerships and multilateral forums, India and Ethiopia continue to strengthen their diplomatic and economic relations, contributing to mutual growth and stability, he noted.

Ethiopia celebrates...

with neighboring countries last year. Many agreements have been signed regarding the exchange of convicted and imprisoned citizens, he elaborated.

In last year, Ethiopia successfully hosted significant summits, including the 37th African Union Summit and the 44th Summit of Foreign Ministers. These diplomatic efforts helped reduce international pressures, particularly from the United Nations, and positioned the country as a key player in the African Urban Forum and the 4th International Finance for Development Conference.

Political Science Lecturer Mulugeta

Debebe (PhD) from the Ethiopian Civil Service University commended Ethiopia's diplomatic achievements, noting that the country's independent foreign policy has allowed it to benefit greatly. Ethiopia's entry into the BRICS family was one of the most notable diplomatic successes of the past year, highlighting its growing global influence.

The expert emphasized the need for Ethiopia to continue its constructive diplomatic efforts to safeguard national interests.

Opinion

Restoring AGOA status: *laying groundwork for Ethiopia's rehabilitation, development*

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

It is widely acknowledged that Ethiopia left no stone unturned to end an armed conflict that took place in the northern part of the country bringing about a considerable amount of effective remedies heedless of enduring challenges and sowing the seeds of peace and tranquilly.

It is unfortunate that regardless of the fact that the federal government put its best foot forward with the purpose of restoring peace and tranquility in the region, Washington in the fullness of time ended up axing Ethiopia from African Growth Opportunity Act (AGOA) under the guise of a vast array of whys and wherefores.

It is important to remember that since the beginning of the war, the government left no stone unturned to return the whole thing to normalcy, smooth the path of humanitarian assistance in collaboration with a diverse range of aid organizations and more of the same with flying colors. Gloomily, it was at that moment that Ethiopia was dislodged from AGOA. The decision has broken many hearts.

Notwithstanding the fact that the federal government gave the thumbs up to unencumbered access to humanitarian assistance, Ethiopia turned out to be a sacrificial lamb. To everyone's dismay, some groups were persistently coming up with cock and bull stories with the purpose of mystifying the international community as a whole.

It is true that subsequent to the signing of the peace accord, the federal government has been putting more than a few meaningful solutions into effect with an eye toward reinstating peace and serenity. It is certain that the Pretoria peace agreement brokered under the auspicious of the African Union (AU) won the hearts and minds of each and every one at the drop of a hat.

Apart from grabbing the attention of the wider international community, the positive achievements surfacing in every corner of the country has almost immediately returned areas affected by the war to normalcy and taking a turn for the better.

It should be remembered that regardless of the promising trends burgeoning in war-ravaged areas, the country's deadliest enemies and some international media outlets had been spreading make-believe stories. No matter how far they voyaged to drag through the mud Ethiopia's positive development surfacing in the northern part of the country, bringing about the desired objective turned out to be an unachievable mission.

It should be underscored that the government in a number of instances demonstrated its approach to get along with standards and norms of the African Union led peace



agreement. In actual fact, the country's standpoint shows beyond doubt Africa's capabilities to resolve its predicaments in its own right devoid of third-party interference.

Notwithstanding the fact that Ethiopia's adversaries gave little weight to the African Union-led peace deal, Ethiopia in the fullness of time turned out to be victorious over the peace agreement.

As the intended target of some groups were confounding the global community with bogus stories, they have been unceasingly preoccupied with a smear campaign against the positive development of the country and drag through the mire the constructive measures unfolding on a national scale.

As long as Ethiopia ticked all the boxes required by the United States of America, the country should be reinstated into AGOA.

Similarly, as the federal government and Tigray People Liberation Front (TPLF) signed the cessation of hostilities agreement in Pretoria, South Africa, Washington should re-enlist Ethiopia into AGOA in the shortest possible time by reassessing its decision.

It should be remembered that a wide spectrum of organizations expressed their disappointments with regard to this matter. While the decision to get rid of Ethiopia from AGOA has instigated weighty economic harm, the incumbent has taken an active role in promoting peace and tackling humanitarian concerns.

It is true that Ethiopia has demonstrated a commitment to upholding peace and stability which is critical in attracting overseas development on a national scale. Other than that the government pulled out all the stops to restore peace and tranquilly. The sad thing is that in spite of these endeavors, Ethiopia's eligibility for AGOA benefits remained up in the air.

Despite the negative impact of the AGOA decision, the Ethiopian government has demonstrated its commitment to addressing the humanitarian crisis and promoting

peace.

As reinstating Ethiopia plays a part in mitigating the social-economic impact of the conflict and also create new perspectives for investment and job creation, in the long run bring about Ethiopia's economic capabilities. It is of paramount importance that the wider global community acknowledges the noteworthy role Ethiopia plays in fostering regional peace and stability.

In the same way, Washington's decision to axe the country from AGOA has had severe significances on the country's economy, for the most part the textile and garment industry. There is no gainsaying the fact that the industry heavily hinged on the American market through AGOA, and its rejection has brought about dismissals and discounts in foreign exchange earnings.

The western countries, mainly the US, should end all sanctions immediately and restore status of Ethiopia to AGOA, the American political-economic analyst Freeman in the recent past told local media. The political-economic analyst, Lawrence Freeman, said support from global partners should help Ethiopia to accelerate its rehabilitation endeavors in the war-affected areas.

According to him, Ethiopia really needs assistance from its friends for the private sector to start the rebuilding and expansion process for more infrastructures. In order to achieve these efforts, the American analyst called on western countries, especially his country the United States, to end all sanctions immediately for Ethiopia's reconstruction project.

Most importantly, Ethiopia's eligibility to AGOA should be reinstated by the US President Joe Biden as the suspension is harming ordinary Ethiopians and putting companies out of business, he stated.

"Now the western countries, especially my country the United States, should end all sanctions immediately. It would be more appropriate for President Joe Biden to do it

while the African-US summit is underway. We should immediately restore Ethiopia to the status of a member of the AGOA. It should be reversed immediately," he suggested.

Freeman, who appreciated Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and his leadership for coming a long way despite difficulties, urged the Biden administration to consolidate the century-old ties between Ethiopia and the US.

"Now if the Biden administration wants to repair relation with Ethiopia, which they should, then they will end sanctions which have been holding up development funds from the IMF and World Bank," the American analyst said.

Speaking about the AU-led peace agreement reached between the federal government and the TPLF in Pretoria, South Africa, the analyst said African solution to an African challenge is heralded during this peace agreement to end the conflict in the northern part of Ethiopia.

He noted that the peace agreement signed on 2nd November, 2022, almost two years after the war began, is very important for several reasons. First, it was the settlement of a war inside Ethiopia that was very harmful to people; and the fact that it could be settled peacefully itself is an accomplishment.

He described the deal as an accomplishment done by Africans, the African Union, IGAD, the AU High Representative for the Horn of Africa, former president of Nigeria, Olusegun Obasanjo, the former president of Kenya, Uhuru Kenyatta, vice president of South Africa, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka without dictation.

Now, all friends of Ethiopia should move to the next phase as this peace agreement, which is always fragile on paper, can be undermined.

Considering the fact that Ethiopia is making progress in the right direction, concerned bodies devoid of batting an eye should reinstate Ethiopia. But turning a blind to the unvarnished truth bubbling up under Ethiopia's skies will not help the two nations to consolidate their longstanding ties.

In the present circumstances, on the heels of the commitment and hard work of the government, the northern part of the country has jumpstarted breathing a sigh of peace and returning to normal life and conditions. In more concrete terms, paying heed to the existing reality on the ground, Washington should assist the progress of reinstating Ethiopia into AGOA within the foreseeable future.

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

Editorial

Dialogue is vital for lasting peace, prosperity

Ethiopia is undertaking National Dialogue for the first time in its history to shun divisive narrations that become source for misunderstandings and conflicts. It is also key to establish grand narration that brings the entire society together for mutual benefit.

To this end, the Ethiopian government established the National Dialogue Commission (NDC) with the mission to create conducive conditions for national consensus by identifying the root causes of deep division and discord among the Ethiopian society through research, and public dialogues. Hence, conducting National Dialogue and presenting recommendations to the concerned bodies as well as designing the implementations are crucial measures.

In fact, Ethiopians have limitless values in common that they have nurtured for centuries. Among these, the unwavering love they have for their country which is incomparable with anything; their economic base mostly related with farming and animals' herding; colorful religious and cultural celebrations that engage all sections of the people; and way they solve problems whenever happened anytime and anywhere among others.

Sadly, these invaluable assets have been eroded gradually and rifts are created making their foundation on uncertain narrations that magnify the problems happened during state formation, obscuring the big picture. Instead of bridging the rifts, some selfish entities aggravate the problems, widening the gap to the extent of organizing violent groups who raise arms to fight one another.

Obviously, armed struggle takes nowhere except creating loss of life and property, declining the nation's economy and extending the journey to eradicate poverty. Because of armed groups in Amhara and some parts of Oromia, students could not attend school, peoples' day to day activities are interrupted and development activities are obstructed. In order to manage all these messes, the NDC has gone long distance. It has worked on awareness creation, participant selection and gathering inputs for agenda setting for the dialogue. It has also made calls repeatedly to the armed groups to give upper hand for peace than conflict. But the calls rested on deaf ears.

As Ethiopia has begun its new calendar, everyone is conveying best wishes for all Ethiopians. It is the time that everybody including the armed groups has to stand for peace and togetherness. The NDC's call is still on air to get the ear that hears. The Commission has covered almost all parts of Ethiopia except Amhara and Tigray and few parts of Oromia. Its recent report indicates that it has got green light from the Tigray interim administration to conduct participant selection and gathering inputs for agenda setting. It is also optimistic to get the same response from Amhara region.

Those who engaged in the armed struggle should come to their mind and observe what has happened so far to the people they have been struggling for and give the chance for peace to prevail. They have to put their questions in words and involve in the dialogue for the sake of their own people.

Contrary to the conflict and war, peace dialogue costs nothing anybody. And the peace that would be achieved through dialogue is invaluable and its results are immeasurable so that the violent groups should come to the discussion table, silencing their guns.

Since Ethiopia is rich in conflict resolution cultures, prominent bodies of the communities, religious institutions, elders of the society and other stakeholders have to play their part in convincing those engaged in conflict to choose peace.

The international community, human rights' advocates, and Ethiopians in the Diaspora should also pay attention to the matter and support the fruitfulness of the dialogue. It must be underlined that peace dialogue is the only key for lasting peace and prosperity whereas war is good for nothing.

Opinion

GERD will light up millions of houses

BY STAFF REPORTER

Decades after the construction of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) started and is nearing its completion, some parties would like to question the final effectiveness of the project. In the beginning, nobody expected that the project would continue to materialize. When it reached mid-way and started to fill the reservoir with water, the smear campaign continued with an updated version of casting suspicion. And now as it has already started generating power with some of its turbines, the unrelenting efforts of smearing the dam have continued but to no avail.

As always stated, it is an iconic project that is anticipated to play a significant role in the political and economic transformation of the country. Any attempt to cast and spread suspicion on the effectiveness of the project or the later operation of the plant proves futile in many ways.

Even though GERD is the biggest hydropower plant in the country it is not the first or the only one of its type either to the country, to the continent or the world. Ethiopia alone has approximately 11 large hydropower dams with an annual energy production capacity of 14,296.7 GWh. It is designed, engineered, constructed and supervised by the same experienced firms, or contractors that have ever accomplished the designing and construction of similar and even more complex projects whose works have already gone operational and have proved effective.

If at all any difference is observed, what makes the construction process of the GERD is that it is being executed with the latest technology available in the world and is as such enjoying a latecomer's advantage in terms of quality design and implementation. No matter how long the construction period took, it's considered rather fruitful compared with the delay other mega projects face. It is fortunate in terms of rectifying the challenges it faced and resuming the process.

It is known that the dam has shown its capability of storing the required volume of water as it has contained water during the last four rounds of annual water filling without causing any problems on itself as well as the downstream riparian.

Now that all the series of

scaremongering around the dam is being disproved, the last resort is to brag about the sedimentation of silts as well as other environmental issues. The first thing that is clear for everyone from day 1 of the construction of such mega projects is the likelihood of sedimentation or formation of silt which is natural to any activity that involves water. If not possible to avoid siltation, it is possible to lessen the amount, minimize the impact as well and take periodic preventive measures which are usual in many other similar plants. But it is too naïve to mention the possibility of such environmental problems as big issues as such to talk about disrupting such a large infrastructure whose significance can never be compared with the possible pitfalls mentioned.

It is also important to notice that the country has years of experience in basin development along the other projects where there is a concerted activity of preventing the impact of environmental issues like deforestation, flooding ... etc. Similar basin development and environmental protection activities have also been underway around the Nile basin since the inception that mitigates the environmental problems against the dam.

The hardest part of the work was breaking the political and economic shackles that hampered the utilization of Abbay for electric power. This is now possible with the joint efforts of the leaders and the commitment of the people. Now that the project is almost a reality, the other issue left for the ill speakers is criticizing the distribution of the power. But once electric power is generated at the plant there is no difference in distributing it as it can join the already operational grid and enhance the nation's power supply. The electricity generated at the hydroelectric facility will be stepped up to 500kV and transmitted through overhead lines connecting to a 500kV double bus-bar switchyard located downstream on the right river bank.

What is happening around the overall process of the construction and operation of the dam is as the saying goes "The dogs bark, but the camel keeps going". The dam has never faced any challenge since its launching and nothing is likely to hamper it from lighting the houses of the energy-hungry population of Ethiopia and neighboring countries.

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Office of the CEO

Tel. 011-126-42-22
Fax. 251-011-156-98-62
email- epa@press.et

Advertisement and Dist. Department

email: etpresspromotion@gmail.com
Tel. 011-156-98-73/011-811-13-15
Telegram :- 0976084707 - press
Editor-in-Chief: Worku Belachew
email- workubelachew@press.et
Address- Nifas Silk Lafto Sub-city
Woreda - 05, House No----
Tel- +251 111 26 41 98

Managing Editor: Wakuman Kudama
Email: wakuma220@gmail.com

Deputy Editors-in-Chief:

Alem Hailu
Elizabeth Mengistu
Zekarias Woldemariam
Desta Geberehiwot
Daniel Beyene

Website: www.press.et
email: ethiopianherald@press.et
Fb//Ethiopian Press Agency/
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Art & Culture

Imagining Africa a single country-cultural, other implications

BY MULUGETA GUDETA

Imagine one day Africa emerging as a united and proud country as one of the global economic powerhouses on equal footing with the giants of our time, like China or to some extent like Russia. Is this utopia? No, because China, which was a relatively poor country back in 1948, has now become the second largest economy in the world. Its culture is thriving and its impact on world affairs has been boosted. So, the possibility of Africa emerging as a united and one of the most powerful countries in the world is far from being utopian. It is realistic and possible.

Imagining Africa as a single country first took roots in the fertile minds of the early founding fathers of the Organization of African Unity (OAU). Kwame Nkrumah, Ghana's first president was the mastermind of this idea as he defended the unity of Africa at any cost without waiting more time for preparation or its realization. This idea was so revolutionary in its time that the debate was divided into two main camps. There were of course detractors and supporters of the idea of African unity both within and outside the country.

In the 1960s, colonialism was weakened but not completely overcome. Among the political elites within the continent, there were many who were not happy with the prospect for an immediate unity of the continent under one government. They argued that Africa was not ready at that time for continental unity. According to them, Africa was just emerging out of colonial rule and its economies and political structures were so weak that any idea of immediate unity could be disastrous.

They maintained that Africa should first overcome its challenges that emanated from hundreds of years of colonial oppression and exploitation. They said Africa needed the support of the former colonizers to channel the funds and resources badly needed for the reconstruction of the continent. In the final analysis, this idea gained popularity among the new African leaders whose interests were closely allied with those of the former colonizers. And the voice of the radical group like that of Nkrumah within the newly emerging Africa was stifled and nipped in the bud by the more conservative and pro-Western faction had the upper hand.

The division between those who defended Nkrumah and called for the immediate unity of African unity and those who said that Africa should unity in the long run or step by step ran deep. The main task at hand for the second group was the consolidation of each and every African



nation in order to defend their sovereignty and independence against the prospects of possible second colonial conquest. In the final analysis, the advocates of "African unity now", were in the minority and those who called for Africa to continue in its fragmented state by maintaining its colonial borders won the day.

From the perspective of present events, it would be hard to say this or that group was right in the decision they took 70 years back. If there is something undeniable in all this, it is the fact that Africa's continuity as a group of 54 countries has not been a shining example of economic or social development. Colonialism was replaced with neocolonialism as Nkrumah warned in one of his books. Africa's economic, social and cultural integration was not a total failure even if it failed to live up to the expectations.

Africa's slow and painful development in the last 70 years was undeniable but it did not produce the expected results. Africa is still a continent where poverty and general backwardness are the dominant features. The continent has not even managed to protect its peace and tranquility and conflicts have become permanent features in the lives of its people. All these negative features are taken for granted these days and no serious intellectual has lost the appetite to discuss these issues. Africa has become a continent of people who resigned to their fate and waiting for miracle to happen in order to make life easier and more interesting.

Unfortunately, the debate around Africa's future were now ignored or simply overlooked for the last 70 years or so, and much water has flowed under the bridge since then. Looking back at the debates from the point of view of the

present, we may conclude that Africa is not yet ready to become one country and the proposal of the early founding fathers of the OAU still remains only a big and lofty dream. But how long will Africa survive on meager staples of beautiful dreams such as "Africa Rising", "African Renaissance" or Africa coming out from the cold? Fortunately, these questions do not prevent us from thinking about or asking the following critical question: Is it feasible to think or ask, at least theoretically, whether a united Africa could have been a bane or a boon to the survival of the continent? As we have no tangible experience to base our viewpoints on this question, it would be highly speculative and hence subjective to dream about a united Africa because it still remains nothing but a big dream.

Dreaming Africa as a single country with a population of more than one billion people, almost equal to that of China, may be attractive. The sad fact is that it always remains a dream and no continent is built on empty dreams. This remains an illusion at best until the time when we start to build enough consensus and rise to make Africa's unity a living and breathing reality. We may perhaps ask at this point what would Africa's global economic impact in the world look like if it could muster efforts to integrate its economy tomorrow or any other day.

It only takes a small effort to calculate the aggregate GDPs of all African countries in order to see how the continent is faring in terms of aggregate growth. Then it would be easier to calculate the average per capita income of every African by dividing the total GDP by the population size. The problem is that it would be futile to go into these calculations because they reflect not the reality on the ground and

remain largely speculations.

What would Africa look like had it been culturally integrated? This may be an interesting question because the answer would be interesting. Even in its presently fragmented state, Africa remains a continent of baffling linguistic and cultural diversity. It looks like a broad and beautiful tapestry of rich traditions, rituals, songs, dances, architectures, dressing codes and designs. Add to this, tens of thousands of stolen African cultural artifacts that are still languishing in European and American museums.

The repatriation of these artifacts would indeed add to the beauty and diversity of African cultural heritages unparalleled in the world. African countries have more or less lost various historical and cultural relics that are now found in various European capitals some of which are still regarded as war trophies or war booties. We need to reclaim what was ours and let the old colonial wound heal and the ongoing legal and illegal business with looted African treasures that is promoted with the full knowledge and sometimes the direct or indirect cooperation from European authorities although they are denying that such activities are taking place in their own turfs. That is why the repatriation of African cultural relics is increasingly assuming unprecedented importance. No doubt, that a united Africa could have accelerated this process because efforts at repatriation would be conducted in a more organized centralized manner with knowledge and information sharing at the national level. That would also add to the weight and prestige of African voices in international forums. This is perhaps the reason that makes Africa's cultural integration such an interesting idea and not a lost cause.

Law & Politics

Is treating African nations as a single entity fair?

BY DANIEL ALEMAYEHU

Africa with more than 1.4 billion people has been continuously represented in unison though there are still 55 different member states. Small nations across the globe with bigger economic power have kept inviting the whole continent as one small unit in their small towns.

The various summits organized by some nations to invite the African continent as a whole have become a trend in the modern world. Africa which is considered as powerless and economically poor continent still attracts a number of actors who wish to work and build partnership with. Many actors around the world organize big summits for various reasons. Over the years, economically affluent nations in the west and east unveiled grand summits to connect with the growing continent. From China Africa to US Africa, summits have been kicked off reportedly to bolster ties with the biggest continent. Such a move might have various pros and cons for both the organizing nations and the African continent at large.

There are some summits that are organized every year for a number of reasons. Those organizing nations are proudly sending invitations for leaders of African nations to take part in forums and conferences.

Putting the whole in one pocket

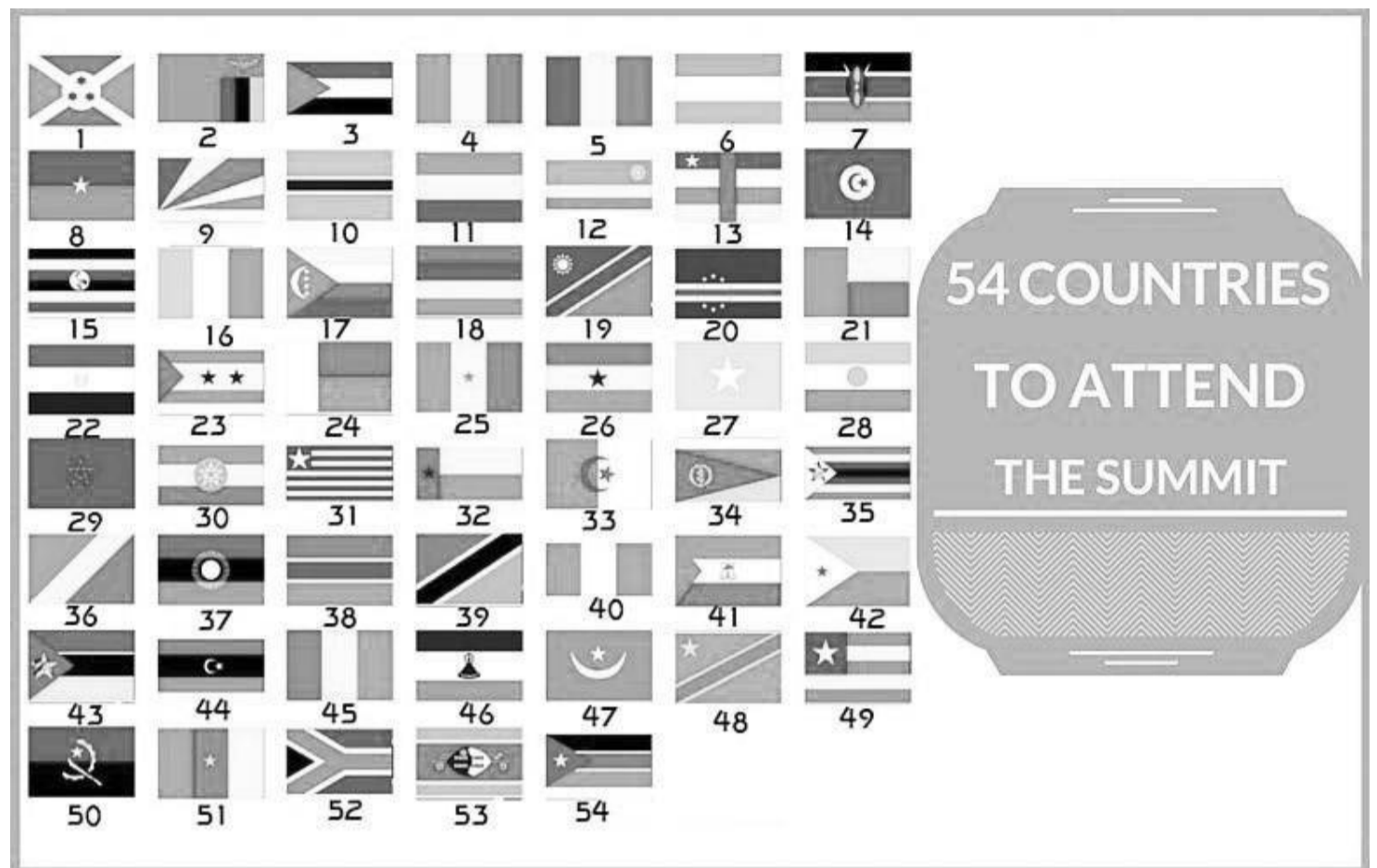
As witnessed in various summits, nations such as the United States of America, China, India, Saudi Arabia, Korea Italy, Russia, and many more have been inviting the whole continent and doing their best to strengthen their partnership. Despite the good intentions lying behind the forums and summits, it sometimes sounds perplexing to treat 55 states as a single unit. It is the fact that Africa is very much diverse in terms of culture, political and economic stands, preferences, and many other aspects. To this point, putting all those differences in one big pocket has nothing but a waste of time and resource especially for those 55 nations.

Again, those African states have various economic, political, and diplomatic partnerships with the organizers. Putting nations with various unknown interest in one big table and talk about partnership will never bear fruit.

SOMETHING BEHIND THE PROMISES

Similarly, during those Africa- focused Africa has got various promises that come with prices. All the organizing nations have frequently disclosed that they eager to work closely with the continent by allocating billions of dollars for the betterment of the continent amidst challenges. However, they have never told us what is next for the continent and what does it pay in return? The only thing that Africa can provide might be its both human and natural resources in exchange of the paper money.

For instance, the Italy- Africa Summit was held in Rome in January 2024, and more



than 20 African leaders and representatives of various unions including the European Union have attended the summit. During the event, Giorgia Meloni, Italian Prime Minister, introduced an investment worth around six billion USD focusing on energy cooperation as a key area of economic development. The premier also stated that she wants to reset Europe's partnership with Africa and positioned her nations as a distribution hub for African energy amidst other interests from other countries in working with the continent on energy.

According to reports, between 2015 and 2022, New Delhi received over 100 African leaders, while each African country received an Indian cabinet minister. In June 2023, African and Indian government, private sector, and industry leaders converged in New Delhi for the 18th India-Africa Conclave hosted by the India Export Import (EXIM) Bank in partnership with India's foreign and trade ministries.

India-Africa trade has grown 18 percent annually since 2003, reaching \$103 billion in 2023. This makes India Africa's third largest trading partner after the European Union and China. India's total investments in Africa amount to \$70 billion, a figure the powerful Confederation of Indian Industry aims to increase to \$150 billion by 2030.

WHAT IS THE REASON BEHIND

In fact, many African nations are struggling with financial constraints though they have plenty to offer to the world in terms of resources. Those lavish summits are designed to lure Africans, especially African leaders to trade the nations' resources with money and other funds. In addition, some leaders use such platforms to create a better recognition for their countries. Truth to be told that solidarity is power, but in the case of summits, such

truth become false as African nations will lose their power to deal privately with the other counterpart. To this end, Africans will not have opportunity to negotiate.

AFRICA MUST KNOW ITS VALUE

Due to various past and present reasons including colonialism, slavery, and many other, the African continent has failed to reach to zenith where its sister continent reach. Yet, its natural resources and human capital blessings made the continent still crucial for the well-being of the whole world. That is the reason why many countries are still eager and very much obsessed with working with the continent. It not because Africa is the best ally to rely on in terms of political and diplomatic endeavors; rather it is all about its resources, and African leaders must know what their nations have.

WHAT AFRICANS SHOULD DO

Based on the current stand that Africa has, it is very hard to get the required treatment from other continents. However, there is still a chance which is to struggle for equal partnership. Africans should roll their sleeves and stand in unity to end such unfair treatment. We must stop patronization and install partnership. Africans must believe that we still have plenty to provide more precious than the paper money. The world might think Africa is poor and must be supported, but the truth is the continent is the one who feeds the entire world. We must push forward to be treated as those nations treat other blocs. We have never heard that a nation invites the whole European nations like they did to Africans. This is the time to say no for unfair partnership; Africans' voice must be heard when it calls for equal partnership. The African Union must also play its part in advocating the equality and fairness.

The only thing that Africa can provide might be its both human and natural resources in exchange of the paper money



We feel that Ethiopia emerges far stronger than it was in the past

Anil Kumar Rai

BY ZEKARIAS WOLDEMARIAM

Ethiopia and India two oldest civilizations enjoy long standing diplomatic ties that has spanned more than seven decades. The relations rest on a firm foundation that covers many sectors including education, health, industry and trade among others and now BRICS is another important forum for cooperation.

Today's Herald Guest is Mr Anil Kumar Rai, Indian Ambassador to Ethiopia and Permanent Representative to the African Union. The Ethiopian Herald had a brief stay with Ambassador Rai yesterday to have his view of the relations between the two countries. Have a nice read!

How do you see the overall progress of the strong diplomatic ties between India and Ethiopia over the years?

Ethiopia and India are two very important countries from the developing world, with historical ties going back to over 2000 years. Both countries enjoy exceptionally warm relationship in all spheres. Since I joined in February 2024, I have witnessed high-level exchanges between the leadership of both countries. On 17 August 2024, India hosted the '3rd Voice of Global South Summit' with overarching theme 'An Empowered Global South for a Sustainable Future' where the leaders from the developing countries deliberated on strengthening collective efforts in addressing challenges faced by the developing world and its solutions which are suitable for the developing countries. Honorable Pime Minister of Ethiopia Abiy Ahmed Ali (PhD) and Finance Minister of Ethiopia Ahmed Shide participated in the Leaders Session and Finance Minister's Session, respectively. In addition, we maintain a close contact at all levels. Now BRICS has emerged as a new platform for our continued, exchange of ideas, cooperation and coordination on bilateral, regional and global issues.

What do you think would be the importance of Ethiopia's joining in BRICS for itself, the other member states as well as others?

BRICS is an organization which was started by four countries including India and South Africa joined later. India being the founding member, always believed in making it more representative of the aspirations of the developing countries and thus in its expansion Ethiopia, joined the bloc recently. In many ways Ethiopia represents the aspirations of Africa and a way forward for bringing development, modernization and addressing the needs of the people. We believe in the youth of this country and see that the ongoing comprehensive reforms have the potential to

transform the economic landscape of Ethiopia. By joining BRICS Ethiopia get access to the alternate models of growth followed by various BRICS countries in diverse fields. Ethiopia may offer the realistic assessment of the developmental needs of Ethiopia and of the East African Region and also the models which might be best suited.

How is BRICS progressing? For instance recently it has launched a payment system.

The Core objective of BRICS is to have a model of economic governance system where the strengths of every country can be leveraged and they are not bind by any order or system, which is beyond their control. As you have mentioned that there is opportunity among the BRICS member countries to trade in their local currencies or get into currency swap agreements, this will facilitate trade among the BRICS members and reduce dependence on foreign currencies; this will provide better control over the currency management, and make the trading system resilient. This is work in progress, I feel it has a great future and of course countries like Ethiopia which has recent join BRICS may benefit out of such arrangements.

Ethiopia is taking measures to make business and investment easier particularly by leveling the ground for private participation, what is your view on this?

Economic liberalization of Ethiopia is quite timely and comprehensive. The country was passing through certain difficulty on its balance of payment, and I see that under the leadership of the Honorable, Prime Minister, Ethiopia has embarked on an ambitious agenda of using this as a lifetime opportunity to reform the economic structure and governance. Such reform process has wide ranging impact, it creates new opportunists for domestic as well as foreign players, and the competition would encourage everyone to grow and improve in various sectors like Agriculture, manufacturing, banking & finance, mining, services sector etc. Such reforms have potential to increase the attractiveness of the Ethiopian market among foreign investors and to improve the competitiveness of Ethiopia. India also has to pass through a similar reform process in 1991 and its continuing even today. So I'm optimistic that the way the things are moving, it will be good for Ethiopia, Ethiopian people and for the domestic as well as foreign investors.

How would Indian investors maximize benefit out of the reform?

India is the second largest investor in Ethiopia and the sectors in which we are largely invested is textile, Iron and Steel, Pharmaceuticals, agriculture and garmenting. Indian Business Forum is actively engaged with Ethiopian investment Commission in constructive way to give industry's perspective as well as inputs for the reforms process. I feel we should give time and space to the policy makers and the business to adjust to the new situation and gain stability. Once these issues are fixed, policy stability is brought in, sky would be the limit for Ethiopia.



There are quite a number of Institutions, trading houses in India and the largest among them is the Tata International are already looking towards this market for procurement of agricultural, mining and other finished products particularly those sectors where Ethiopia enjoys price competitiveness. To further promote exports of Ethiopian products to India, we recently conducted a study entitled 'Export Opportunities Study for Oil Seeds, Pulses, Cotton, Gemstones and Coffee from Ethiopia to India'. The study provides a strategy to increase the exports potential of Ethiopian products in the Indian markets.

What is new about Ethiopia and India's cooperation in the education area?

So far as education sector is concerned, this is one of the strongest and oldest areas of cooperation between both countries. And if you see in 1950s starting from the primary education to the university level education it was driven by Indian professional. I'm very happy to note that over a period of time Ethiopians developed skills and now the presence of Indian professors are restricted in the higher education sector. We offer around the 500 slots for short-term training to Ethiopian Nationals and over 70 to 80 slots for long-term education, like under-graduation, masters and PhD programs. Education continues to be the organic linkages between both the countries and an important people-to-people link.

Ethiopia is undergoing a process to carry out national dialogue to address decades long problems of conflict and misunderstanding. What can Ethiopia learn from India in this regard?

Ethiopia is a country of civilization, Ethiopians are proud of their history as well as patriotic. We consider that the best solution would come

through Ethiopia led and Ethiopia driven process of reconciliation. We have always been supportive of dealing the domestic issues in a constructive manner through dialogue. On few occasions when such issues were brought to the UNSC, UN HRC, we supported the Ethiopian position. We expect that Ethiopia's National Dialogue process would be successful.

How do you see Ethiopia's role in bringing peace and stability in the horn of Africa region, the continent and the nearby areas?

Ethiopia is a key pillar of stability in the Horn of Africa and for the African continent. Peace and stability in the Horn of Africa is important for everyone as it lies on the important trade route of Red Sea and shares borders with India through the Indian Ocean. So, it's in everyone's interest that the trade routes should remain open, well managed, safe and secure. Ethiopia, African Union and the countries of the region are important stakeholders to ensure that the Horn of Africa remains peaceful, it's also necessary for growth and prosperity of this region.

Africa is now striving to integrate itself economically under the Agenda 2063 flagship project of African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). How does India collaborate with Ethiopia and Africa in the implementation of the regional economic bloc?

You may recall that in 2023 under India's presidency of G20, The historic and path breaking diplomatic initiative was taken by India which resulted in Permanent Membership to African Union in G-20. It's also a coincidence that starting from Indonesia, India, Brazil and then South Africa, the four Developing nations provide Presidency to the G-20. African Union

Continued to page 9



We feel that...

continued from page 8

should use this opportunity to ensure that the agenda of Africa should become part of the agenda of G20 and the Agenda 2063 including AfCFTA should get right positioning. India as member of G20 would continue to support the inclusive development of Africa in agriculture, food security health, poverty reduction, environment and climate change; mitigating and managing disasters, among others.

Ethiopia is working towards becoming the pharmaceutical manufacturing hub of Africa. How do you see the participation of Indian companies?

Four Indian companies are manufacturing in Ethiopia, however, due to the Forex, issues their performance was suboptimal. But once the Forex situation is stabilized, I think these companies will start operating to its full capacity. Vaccine manufacturing is an area where Ethiopia can leverage the Indian expertise and produce vaccines not only for Ethiopia but for Africa. A shift in supply-chain and the production capabilities within the African continent will be good. The advantage which Ethiopia enjoys is presence of African Union's Center for Disease Control, youthful, educated and skilled population. Pharma being one of sensitive sector, I believe some changes in the policy and investment landscape would be needed to enhance the competitiveness of Ethiopia to become an attractive destination for investments in this sector, including from India.

So how do you see the collaboration between India and Ethiopia in medicine?

Being, a country of relatively large population, Ethiopia has a basic framework of health infrastructure which is ever evolving and needs further up-gradation. We can witness many changes like new hospitals are coming up and the Medical Colleges are producing high quality of doctors and care givers. Ethiopia is also host to some of best Medical Colleges of the continent. So far as health sector cooperation is concerned, Indian medical professionals regularly visits Ethiopia to carry out medical missions. Recently, the Rotary Club of Chandigarh carried out 12 days of Medical Mission to Ethiopia, where they conducted over 150 complicated surgeries and provided OPD services to over 500 patients, as part of charity. Such activities are also carried out by private entities to provide direct relief to patients and also to upscale the skills of the Ethiopian medical professionals.

What are the activities carried out by the Embassy of India to promote health sector cooperation?

During India's G20 Presidency, the Prime Minister of India's envisioned for 'One Earth, One Health' and later on we promoted the concept of 'Healthcare Beyond Boundaries' which has vision to strengthen the global ecosystem for health-related needs while ensuring quality, affordability and accessibility of top-quality healthcare for all. These concepts are also aligned with the health-related objectives of the African Union's Agenda 2063 and United Nation's Agenda 2030.

In order to further strengthen the above-mentioned health related concepts, the Embassy of India is organizing an event on 1 October 2024 in Addis Ababa to bring all the stakeholders on a single platform to share their ideas and work towards creating synergies. The participants would include policy makers, hospitals, medical professionals including

traditional medicine experts, Medical Value Travel professionals, international organizations, national representatives and other stakeholders.

Are there events of similar nature organized in India where policy makers, experts and health professionals can participate to get a better understanding of the issues and have tie-ups with the Indian institutions?

There are many such events organized in India at government and industry level. The upcoming event 'Advantage Healthcare India 2024' is scheduled at Greater Noida which is part of the National Capital Region of Delhi from 18-20 December 2024. This event is jointly organized by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, of the Government of India in partnership with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

Health professionals from across the world would be participating in this event and would witness the world class healthcare and wellness services of India. This would give them an opportunity to understand the quality standards, healthcare technologies and holistic approach towards health and wellness adopted by India. This would offer a great opportunity for industry to industry tie-ups. We also plan to fully sponsor participation of the policy makers from the health sector of Ethiopia, Heads of premier health institutions both from Government and Private Sector, Medical Insurance companies and media dealing with this subject.

It is widely acknowledged that Indians are top health professionals and care-givers across the world. What is the reason for such an outstanding reputation of Indian health professionals across the world?

The Medical education system of India has been one of the best in the world since early days and has been conducted in English. Given the high burden of diseases in India, the medical students and health professionals gets better opportunities to deal with patients and thus, picks up the practical aspects of treatment during their early days in the professional carrier.

This unique talent has given opportunities for the Indian doctors and health professionals to work in the best and biggest hospitals and health ecosystems across the world. Because of this, you will find that the Indian doctors and health professionals are top rated in countries like USA, UK, Canada, Australia, Singapore, European countries and the Gulf countries, among others. The Indian doctors and health professionals are also highly respected and represented in organizations like United Nations, WHO, UNICEF, World Bank, Doctors without Borders (Médecins Sans Frontières), Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, International Medical Corps, Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, among others.

What are the key drivers of Indian Health Sector?

In the post-COVID era, individuals are increasingly becoming health-conscious and so as the Government of India. This has significantly pushed the demand as well as supply of cost-effective and high-quality healthcare facilities in India. A substantial amount of the investments has come from the overseas investors as well as from the private sector. Even in the pre-pandemic era India was

the preferred destination for foreign patients due to unique advantages like:

1. Individuals get the benefit of first-class medical services, therapies, surgeons, etc. at nominal expenses;
2. Integration of traditional health and wellness knowledge systems for speedy recovery and rehabilitation of the patients;
3. They could also take advantage of India's scenic beauty, rich cultural heritage, and diverse landscapes by combining their treatments with leisure activities;

As per a cost comparison study by the American Medical Association, a knee replacement surgery somehow cost US\$ 40,000 in the United States, US\$ 10,000 in Thailand, and US\$ 13,000 in Singapore. However, the same surgery, with better medical care and services, is very likely to cost around US\$ 6,500 in India. The cost of living in India is also very reasonable which makes the stay during prolonged treatments even more affordable. Better connectivity from all parts of the world to the Indian metropolitan is also contributing to the growth of the India medical value travel.

What would be the main features of the Conference organized by Embassy of India, scheduled on 01 October 2024?

The Conference aims to bring all stakeholders on a single platform to share healthcare issues. We plan to invite the representatives from the

Government of Ethiopia, the African Union, the United Nations and its various organizations based out in Addis Ababa, Government and Private Health sector in Ethiopia and India, Pharma & Medical Device Manufacturers, as well as health professionals from both the countries. Through this Conference, we would like to create a synergy between the various stakeholders and work out a roadmap to engage in the constructive manner so that it is beneficial to all.

How people can participate in the Conference?

In order to keep the discussion and deliberations focused and result oriented, it has been decided to keep the participation on the basis of invitation. The participants may provide their details in an online registration form created for the Conference whose link is available on our website www.eoiaddisababa.gov.in The registration is open till 25 September 2024. Organizations and individuals interested to participate may kindly provide details in the online form <https://forms.gle/Qf8Lo3KWCxZpCSPx7>

We hope that the conference would generate renewed interest for cooperation in the health sector between India and Ethiopia and also provide insights to the international participants.

Thank you for today's interview.

ADVERTISEMENT



Embassy of India
Addis Ababa

Press Release

The historic and path breaking diplomatic initiative taken by India during G-20 Presidency last year resulted in Permanent Membership to African Union in G-20. One of the other important outcomes was India's call for One Earth, One Health & Healthcare Beyond Boundaries which has vision to strengthen the global ecosystem for health-related needs while ensuring quality, affordability and accessibility of top-quality healthcare for all. These concepts are also aligned with the health-related objectives of the African Union's Agenda 2063 and United Nation's Agenda 2030.

In order to further strengthen the above-mentioned health related concepts, the Embassy of India to Ethiopia & Permanent Mission to the African Union is pleased to organize an event on 1 October 2024 in Addis Ababa to bring all the stakeholders on a single platform to share their ideas and work towards creating synergies. The participants would include policy makers, hospitals, medical professionals including traditional medicine experts, Medical Value Travel professionals, international organizations, national representatives and other stakeholders.

In order to keep the discussion and deliberations focused and result oriented, the participation would be on the basis of invitation only and would be free of charge.

Organizations and individuals interested to participate may kindly provide details in the online Google Form <https://forms.gle/Qf8Lo3KWCxZpCSPx7>

Society

The social effects of diabetes

BY FASIL YOSEPH

(School of Information Science Student, AAU)

It was six years ago that I got diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes. That moment has proved to be the most consequential moment of my life. The disease has brought about many radical changes in my life. For instance, the lifestyle I had, my future career and personal plans, and mostly the way that I used to lead my social life have radically changed.

After a period of toil and personal problems, I believe I have overcome the hardships that I persistently faced. In this article, I would like to shine a light on some of the issues that people with diabetes face on a societal basis in Ethiopia. Issues that are discussed may not pertain to every diabetic, but are a very good representation according to my discussion with various healthcare experts.

Diabetes is the breakdown of one of the more important of the body's autonomic mechanisms, and its breakdown throws many other self-regulating systems into imbalance. It is a very complex and strenuous disease ever to exist as it has been documented since the Greek and Roman civilizations. As of today, we are not closer to the remedy of this deadly disease; and its palpable complexity and adversity that it inflicts upon its patients inherently make it a very sophisticated issue in human society.

The Ethiopian society is one of the most multicultural societies in the entire sphere. The history, culture, cuisine, and so forth speak for themselves. While the bondage in our society is strong, it still doesn't address a very core query from diabetics: the issue of fully assimilating diabetics into the norms of society. Whilst diabetics are not thrown chagrin at them or cast to fire up on their discovery that their pancreas is not functioning, they still face various adversities due to the disease. To list all of the adversities in one article and expound on each one of them would be unjust for their experience, therefore, I will strive to address mainly three issues: the underwhelming comprehension of diabetes in our society and its effects, the unsaturated needs brought up due to absence of a comprehensive diabetes healthcare and the social norms and cultural values of Ethiopian society and their impact on diabetics.

The primary task that a cancer specialist does to a new patient is informing him/her that a deadly disease has consumed his/her body. As tough as it may be, informing an individual whose life could potentially be ravaged by 5 stages of a disease is as vital as applying a gamma ray or other sophisticated medication. In fact, a study published in the *Journal of Clinical Oncology* on October 5, 2015, reveals that patients with advanced cancer who discussed their prognosis with their physicians had more realistic expectations about life expectancy than patients who did not have such conversations. Moreover, these discussions did not damage the patients' emotional well-being or compromise their relationships with physicians.

Just like cancer, the first thing that diabetics ought to do is that they have to voluntarily accept that they will have chance to live with the disease. This move is essential



to them as the disease requires constant care and rapt attention daily. The society, on the other hand, doesn't offer the same merits to diabetics. Due to the absence of grave symptoms that are normally expected from chronic illnesses and the endless treatment that is bestowed upon diabetics, society hardly accepts it as a serious issue, leading to negligent acts, particularly during social scenes or adjusting their perception of diabetics. After the painful acceptance of a potential life-lasting illness, diabetics are put between a rock and a hard place due to the aforementioned actions and inactions. The underestimation leads to a lack of support for diabetics, causing mental health issues to ensue gradually.

The first conjecture that is projected in anyone's mind when the word disease is brought up is healthcare. Healthcare as the crux of treatment and well-being could be a make or break for any patient. And particularly in diabetics where the conceit of one-time treatment is transcended, it is vital. The process of caring for a patient entails a multitude of acts and perils. Firstly, diabetics should pay a regular visit to healthcare centers. For a timely diagnosis to occur, access to healthcare centers should have as few barriers as possible for diabetics, but in reality the antithesis rules. Approximately 18% of Ethiopians do not have access to a public healthcare facility within a two-hour walk (JGlob Health, 2023). This is a damning indictment of the healthcare system in our country and is a recipe for disaster for diabetics. As mentioned before, diabetes requires continuous regulation and checkups as the bodies of diabetics could face an immediate and radical alteration which in turn could ignite a chain of reactions within and result in possible complications or even death.

This may seem far-fetched, but a plethora of deaths are attributed to diabetics annually and it's also difficult to quantify how many deaths diabetes causes as it's mostly associated with other miscellaneous diseases like hypertension. Even when diabetics have access to a healthcare center, the cost

which involves carbohydrate-rich aliment.

Diabetics may find it challenging to adhere to their dietary restrictions in these settings, leading to potential non-compliance with their treatment plan. Some people in our country may have limited access to diabetic-friendly foods. This lack of accessibility renders difficulty for diabetics to maintain a diet that goes in concert with their health needs. Repudiating food offered by a host at a social event is often seen as disrespectful in Ethiopian culture. Diabetics may feel pressured to consume foods that are inimical to their health to avoid offending others. It also does not help that many Ethiopians face economic challenges that limit their ability to purchase healthier food options, such as fresh vegetables and lean proteins, which are essential for managing diabetes effectively.

In addition to culinary norms, physical exercise is also vital for diabetes care and management. After eating food compared to non-diabetics, a higher elevation in blood sugar takes place. To mitigate this spike, physical exercise should be implemented by diabetics. Though one may think about how this relates to our society and how it may be affected by it, there are many layers in which our society could prove to be a hindrance. In some communities, cultural norms may restrict women's participation in public physical activities, such as jogging. This can limit their ability to engage in regular exercise. In many areas, there may be a lack of safe or accessible spaces for exercise. This can discourage diabetics from engaging in social activities.

Despite these hurdles, we are now seeing some major infrastructures being enacted. Harmful traditional beliefs like "Exercise is only for younger people" can prevent diabetics from adopting a regular exercise routine. Lack of support from family and friends for engaging in physical activity can lead to a sedentary lifestyle, which is a con to managing diabetics. This is perfectly captured in a study that deduced that the overall magnitude of adequate social support was only found to be for half of the population. (The Magnitude, Types, and Roles of Social Support in Diabetes Management among Diabetics: a Multilevel, Multicenter Cross-Sectional Study).

To conclude, diabetics from the day they are communicated with the fact of their health status, face an enormous amount of challenges in their social life, specifically in healthcare, social activities, and religious acts. Different reasons can be attributed to these waves of acts that could bring acrimony to them. Lack of knowledge, misconceptions, and misinformation about the disease fueled by traditional and religious beliefs and wrapped by insufficient healthcare acts unveil an enigma that may take a lifetime to solve for diabetics. To mitigate these unfortunate circumstances our society needs to heed advice from medical experts about this deadly disease and treat diabetics in a fair and compromised manner. This is essential for diabetics to live as normal civilians in our country. As diabetics could potentially not be separated from their illness, they would have to integrate diabetes into the fabric of their identity and their activities. Hence, our society has to assimilate them as normal people in every facet of community life.

Our society needs to heed advice from medical experts about this deadly disease and treat diabetics in a fair and compromised manner

of treatment: insulin, glucose monitors, and other essential supplies are prohibitively exorbitant. Granted, healthcare plans may have been introduced but they still don't entirely saturate the needs of diabetics. In fact, it isn't a bombshell anymore when a shortage of insulin is periodically mentioned. This kind of incident could have catastrophic results as scarcity of medical supplies can't be accommodated by diabetics due to the nature of the disease. This further corroborates the conceit that the support that diabetics acquire from our healthcare leaves a lot to be desired.

The cultural and social norms in our society also greatly influence how diabetics navigate their daily lives. Dietary restrictions are one of them. Diabetics are required to follow a strict and meticulously designed meal plan on a daily basis. A slight diversion from that could have immediate (appearance of hypertension symptoms such as fever and thirst) and gradual (long-term complications) ramifications. In Ethiopia, social gatherings often revolve around food,

Verbatim and Caption

Ethiopians receive 2017 E.C New Year

Citizens should work hand-in-hand to build bright future for all: PM Abiy



Ethiopia will be ushering in the coming New Year with renewed hope and determination. As we are welcoming the New Year, 2017 E.C, we have to receive the New Year with sense of optimism and renewed commitment to progress. The concluded year was marked by both challenges and achievements for Ethiopia. Ethiopians have to seize the opportunities presented by the incoming New Year and need to work together to address the nation's challenges and build a brighter future for all.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) stated on his New Year message



Last year was dynamic, eventful one for Prime Minister Abiy: PM Office

The concluded year, 2016 E.C, was a dynamic and eventful one for Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD).

Prime Minister Abiy was busy from overseeing the progress of national mega-projects and inaugurating key Prime Ministerial initiatives, to engaging with stakeholders across the country. Similarly, the premier achieved significant milestones in strengthening foreign relations during the concluded year.

Office of the Prime Minister

Ethiopia's sovereign prestige benchmarks our forefathers' patriotism: FM Taye

Ethiopia's sovereign prestige is drawn from the selfless and gallant patriotism of our forefathers. The sovereignty of countries have constituted in legal form from the II world war onwards while Ethiopia's sovereignty has rock-solid historical background and has been handed over to generations.

Sovereignty is freedom and it is demonstrated by institutions and authorities solely vested by the people. Ethiopians all along the past have paid invaluable sacrifices to maintain its process of nation building. Ethiopian forefathers, through their gallant fight against colonialists, have made Ethiopia the emblem of black people's struggle for freedom.

Ambassador Taye Atske Selassie, Foreign Minister of Ethiopia



Consolidating past year's achievements crucial: HPR Speaker



In the past Ethiopian year, Ethiopia has registered remarkable socioeconomic developments in various fields including in corridor development, tourism, agriculture, among others. Consolidating the past year's successes is important to realize prosperous Ethiopia.

The fate of Ethiopia lays on the creativity, innovation and productivity of this generation. The youth needs to be determined to strengthen the overall developments and to attain prosperity of the country. The government of Ethiopia will create enabling environment for the youth to enhance their engagements in the socioeconomic and political activities of the country.

Tagesse Chaffo, Speaker of House of People's Representatives (HPR) New Year message

Strengthening past successes to ensure peace and economic development: Adanech Abiebie



In 2016 E.C, a lot of achievements were registered in bolstering development, and in maintaining peace and security in Addis Ababa city and the country at large.

The 2017 E.C New Year needs to be the year that we consolidate and strengthen the past successful experiences such as economic reform and corridor development project as well as ensuring peace and self-reliance in economy. I wish the New Year to be a year that Ethiopia realizes all round sovereignty.

Adanech Abiebie, Addis Ababa City Mayor