



Prof. Mesfin Araya

ENDC to finalize agenda collection by October

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA-The Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission (ENDC) announced plan to complete its agenda collection phase by October.

In a recent media briefing, ENDC Chief Commissioner Prof. Mesfin Araya stated that the commission is working towards wrapping up the agenda collection activities by next month. As part of this phase, the commission has been holding discussion forums across various states and city administrations to gather input for the National Dialogue. During these sessions, participants have been discussing and electing representatives who will take part in the main National Dialogue.

In Sidama State, around 22 stakeholders are currently engaged in forums to identify and submit their agendas to the commission, Prof. Mesfin said. This chapter of agenda collection discussions is set to conclude in October.

Following this, fundamental agendas will be selected by representatives from various sectors, with observers present to ensure transparency. These key agendas will then be discussed in the main National Dialogue forum.

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Ethiopia's innovation- driven society in making

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

Few years has already elapsed since the government of Ethiopia took different measures to integrate STEM centers in different higher education institutions in order to create knowledge-based as well as innovation-driven society.

The role of private sector including civic society organizations is vital to enhance government's effort in STEM education. The STEM power, has recently organized 'STEM power FAB LAB expo' in

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Ethiopia's garment, textile products penetrating global market

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA - Manufactured at the Hawassa Industrial Park, Ethiopian garment and textile products are widely penetrating American, Asian and European markets, Industry Parks Development Corporation (IPDC) said.

IPDC Marketing, Promotion and Investment Sector Deputy Director General Zemen Junadin told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the Hawassa Industrial Park is immensely contributing in increasing

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Nation prioritizes regional integration, peace in foreign policy

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA – Ethiopia's foreign policy is fundamentally focused on promoting regional integration and fostering peace, the Foreign Minister said.

In a recent briefing on Horn of Africa (HoA) issues, Foreign Minister Ambassador Taye Atske-selassie stated that Ethiopia's diplomatic strategy places great importance on its shared history and consistent engagement with neighboring communities. He emphasized that the policy is built on a strong foundation aimed at comprehensive regional integration, creating opportunities

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News

ERA to import advanced soil testing equipment

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA –With an ambition to transform road construction, the Ethiopian Roads Administration (ERA) aspires to import latest technology, which determines the right characteristics of soils along the routes of construction sites.

ERA stressed that advanced soil testing equipment is essential for the construction of quality roads that have reliable foundations.

ERA Deputy Director General Eng. Hirut Yohannes told journalists that her office is executing road construction by using its own laboratory while striving to import advanced soil testing equipment.

According to her, ERA is working to own latest soil testing equipment and laboratory to execute successful road projects.

The incoming equipment is important to test soil characteristic for upcoming road projects including soil, asphalt and gravel roads, she said.

“This testing equipment not only related to road construction, but also the construction sectors in general. Latter, we will have



Hirut Yohannes

laboratory arrangement that help more,” she noted.

The new advanced models the Administration are looking for also important to check the physical properties of modified asphalt and mixtures, Hirut expressed.

“Technology transfer is one of key objective in the area. We are preparing technology transfer guidelines. Thus, based on this parameter, we will bring new technology in the sector,” she said.

The Deputy Director General expressed that ERA has already constructed a laboratory in its ERA’s Road Research Center (RRC).

Soil test laboratory for road constructions needed to have quality roads in the nation and help how to use construction material, she stated.

ERA’s road research center, as to Hirut, serves as a reference for central laboratory testing institute.

The RRC testing laboratory is equipped to perform general tests required for pavement construction such as aggregate tests, mixing tests and field tests, she said.

The research center is also established in order to resolve road related problems, she added.

“We are working with domestic universities and foreign research institutes. We are doing research with Addis Ababa University regarding landslide and in this regard the university is mapping areas prone to landslide to protect the society from hazards. Capacity building is another area, Era is working to develop competent and skillful experts. So we are recruiting and providing training for the professionals in the sector.”



State expands rice cultivation to 149,000 hectares

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA- The Amhara State Agriculture Bureau has announced that 149,000 hectares of land are being cultivated with rice this *Meher* production season.

The Bureau Deputy Head Kalkidan Shifraw told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the state has dedicated 149,000 hectares to rice production during this *Meher* season, which is a key period for crop production and productivity in Ethiopia.

According to Kalkidan, the rice cultivation spans five zones across

Amhara State, and this year has seen an additional 67,000 hectares dedicated to rice compared to the same period last year. “Rice production is showing progress alongside the cultivation of regular crops,” he added.

The bureau plans to implement a targeted approach to areas with potential for rice production that have not yet been utilized.

He also stated that around 169 million quintals of various crops are expected to be harvested from five million hectares cultivated in the Amhara State during this *Meher* season. The state has achieved over 97% of its crop cultivation target so far.

“The distribution of rain has been favorable for agriculture, enabling successful land preparation and timely seed planting,” Kalkidan noted. “Crops are being cultivated on schedule, and agricultural activities are progressing well across all areas of the state.”

Beyond ensuring food security, the agricultural output is also intended for processing industries and the export market. The state is focusing on crops for export, such as Mung beans (Masho), sesame, and soybeans, with particular attention to grains.

The bureau is actively working to combat pests and weeds to ensure a successful harvest.

Climate: ECA reveals Africa loses up to 5 percent of GDP

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA-The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the African Union Commission, jointly announced the continent Africa needs urgent and increased investment in climate adaptation and resilience.

Launching the 2023 State of the Climate in Africa report in Cote de Ivory, the three giant institutions revealed that African countries are facing an escalating climate change bill, with an average loss of 2-5% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) due to climate extremes, according to the UN Economic Commission for Africa-ECA’s statement sent to *The Ethiopian Herald*.

“In Africa, the cost of adaptation is estimated to be between 30-50 billion USD annually over the next decade, representing 2-3% of the region’s GDP,” the statement shows.

Speaking t the launching of the yearly report, several African authorities also urged international environmentalist institutions to give due attention to the crisis, it was stated.

“Africa is uniquely vulnerable to climate change, with its high dependence on rain-fed agriculture and limited adaptive capacity. Rising temperatures, rising sea levels, and erratic rainfall are already causing widespread harm to human health, ecosystems, and livelihood. These challenges threaten to derail Africa’s big-bed progress towards achieving the sustainable development goals and the African Union agenda 2063”, stated the Minister of Green Economy and Environment of Zambia.

Africa faces disproportionate burdens and risks from climate change, which threatens food security, public health, and socio-economic development across the continent,” also said Ambassador Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko, Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment at the African Union Commission.

Deputy Executive Secretary and Chief Economist at the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Hanan Morsy on his part added that Africa is on the front lines of fighting climate change and its impacts, from rising temperatures to shifting rainfall patterns, and other extreme weather events.

Key sectors like the agricultural sector, which employs over 60% of Africa’s population, are under threat. Crops are failing and livestock is suffering as climate variability disrupts traditional farming practices, jeopardizes food supply, and the economic stability of nations, which are already grappling with high poverty and levels, he noted.

The 2023 State of the Climate in Africa report is expected to serve as a vital tool for policymakers, providing the observational basis necessary to drive action and support decision-making in the face of an increasingly challenging climate future, according to ECA’s statement.

News

Embassy shares Ethiopia's massive tourism dev't endeavors

ADDIS ABABA (ENA)- Ethiopia's Embassy in India attended the Creative Economic Forum 2024, held in New Delhi, under the theme 'Roadmap for Creative Industries for Viksit Bharat 2047.'

During the forum, the embassy highlighted the government's efforts to position Ethiopia as a top global tourism destination.

The Embassy attended the Creative Economic Forum 2024, held in New Delhi, under the theme 'Roadmap for Creative Industries for Viksit Bharat 2047,' it was learned.

Ambassador Bizunesh Meseret, Chargée d'Affaires of the Embassy, graced the event as a Guest of Honor and delivered a presentation on the impact of Ethiopia's creative industries on tourism, emphasizing tourism as one of the top priority investment sectors in Ethiopia.

She also highlighted the government's efforts to position Ethiopia as a top global tourism destination.

Furthermore, the Ambassador urged Indian tour operators to include Ethiopia's tourism attractions in their tour packages and to visit Ethiopia.

The Embassy further showcased Ethiopia's unique attractions and conducted a traditional coffee ceremony.



ENDC to finalize...

Prof. Mesfin also mentioned that the commission has held talks with the Tigray Interim Administration regarding the initiation of National Dialogue activities. The Interim Administration has responded positively, and the commission is preparing to launch the dialogue soon, pending full recognition.

Furthermore, the outcomes of the final National Dialogue will be forwarded for implementation, with the commission responsible for monitoring progress. The Chief Commissioner commended media institutions for their contributions to the National Dialogue's success and encouraged them to continue raising public awareness about the process.

Nation prioritizes...

for shared development with neighboring countries.

FM Taye also underscored that Ethiopia has consistently prioritized regional peace efforts and strengthened relations with its neighbors, recognizing that the country's well-being and prosperity are closely linked to regional stability. As the largest country in the HoA, Ethiopia bears a heightened responsibility to protect both its own security and the broader region's future.

"Ethiopia remains committed to implementing win-win principles and peaceful mechanisms to build, mend, and enhance relations with its neighboring countries. This perspective is rooted in the understanding that we share unbreakable bonds of fraternity among our peoples," he stated.

Reflecting on Ethiopia's complex historical relationship with Somalia, the minister reiterated that peace is the most effective

tool for addressing conflicts and challenges. Ethiopia is actively pursuing various peaceful initiatives to safeguard not only its own peace but also that of the HoA.

Regarding the ongoing conflict in Sudan, Ambassador Taye expressed Ethiopia's readiness to support efforts to revitalize the peace agreement in the region. He affirmed that Ethiopia would not remain passive when regional peace and harmony are threatened by terrorism and anti-peace elements.

"The policy also serves as a foundation for enhancing historical and traditional ties, as well as for building or rebuilding infrastructural links, trade, and cultural exchanges," he noted.

Recognizing the positive impact of regional cooperation on peace and development, the FM stressed that Ethiopia is committed to engaging with the rest of Africa and beyond on equal footing.

Ethiopia's garment, ...

earnings, job creation and skill development thereby expediting economic transformation.

It has been manufacturing textile and garment products that have been widely accessing American and European markets. Accordingly, the park has generated over 44 million USD foreign exchange earnings while creating over 24, 000 permanent jobs in the just ended Ethiopian fiscal year, the Deputy Director General remarked.

The park has been cultivating the skills of new leaders, Zemen said, adding that Ethiopian employees who joined the park have been overtaking managerial positions.

Over the past three years, following the termination of African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), the IPDC has

been trying to penetrate other market alternatives in European, Asian and African markets while utilizing local markets effectively, he stated.

Moreover, he mentioned that Ethiopia's industrial products are also now accessing the markets of BRICS countries.

Unlocking these market alternatives, the country is striving to fill the gaps that the removal from AGOA caused so far. Zemen also indicated the ever increasing employee's turnover in industrial parks as the industries are equipping the workers with the required knowledge and skill.

The IPDC has been administering some 13 industrial parks across the country including the Dire Dawa Free Trade Zone, it was learnt.

Ethiopia's innovation...

collaboration with Educational Materials Production and Distribution (EMPDA) that showcased firsthand innovative science products that was crafted entirely from scratch by STEM power FAB LAB team.

The science expo aimed at showcasing scientific achievements and providing an educational experience for all. It also aspired to equip attendees with valuable knowledge about various scientific principles and practical application of these principles in creating cutting-edge products.

Exhibiting science kits ranging from kindergarten to preparatory students, Ruhama Tarekegn, Electro Mechanical Engineer, mentioned that the kits would support to solve mathematical problems.

She said they are instrumental to enhance children's motor, coordination and color development skills while supporting high school and university students to breakdown on mathematics and physics formula.

"The kits, that are entirely made in the FAB

LAB, allow children and students acquire knowledge in practical and fun way. It will also be significant in raising awareness about the importance of STEM education and innovative works."

People's perception towards science education is now progressing and the availability of such educational science kits would increase its acceptance in the students as well as societies, she emphasized.

Tilahun Ali, who also showcased a CNC Machine he created with the financial and input support from STEM power, said the machine could interpret any computer design into any material or woodwork in less than an hour, which usually takes at least a month.

As to him, the CNC machine that is currently being imported to the country costs around 20,000USD. However, it could be manufactured locally with minimum cost. Though the raw materials are imported, he installs all the electrical, mechanical and

industrial process locally.

Not only the locally manufactured CNC machine could attract more foreign currency, but he indicated that it could benefit the nation from import substitution.

MY CNC machine is advanced from the technology that has so far been imported from another country. The former is one step ahead and operates in wireless technology while the latter uses electricity.

He stressed the need to expand science laboratories in schools and organizing science expo to exploit the innovative ability of students across the country.

STEM power country representative Semenew Keskes (PhD), stated that displaying the science kits introduced by the STEM power team primarily focuses on showcasing the potential of youth in creating vital and impactful works.

The kits are produced with local capacity that could have meaningful impact in import

substitution. It allows the country to produce innovative works that could go in align with nation's cultural values, norms and thinking.

The expo was exhibited by officials from higher education institution, federal and state education bureau as well as pertinent stakeholders.

STEM Power, which is a non-profit organization, has carried offering online tutoring and academic resources to students to enhance their knowledge in STEM subjects. Operating in over 60 centers across the nation and reach out around 33 African countries, it has been delivering trainings and providing technical, financial and other supports for youth that are high interest in science education.

The center has opened several laboratories in Ethiopia as well as in different sub-Saharan countries. It has also offered training for about 1.5 million youths which allowed them to come up with technologies that solves societal problems so far.

Opinion

GERD: Powering Ethiopia's economic transformation

BY LAKACHEW ATINAFU

Ethiopia has been making impressive strides in recent years, emerging as one of the fastest-growing economies in Sub Saharan Africa. At the heart of this economic transformation is the ongoing construction of the Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, a massive hydroelectric project on the Abbay River that is poised to be a game-changer for the country.

As to the statement of the Prime Minister, more good news has been emerged from Guba for the lower Abbay basin countries. Along with the uninterrupted flow of the River, the Dam's spillways have been opened, releasing an additional 2,800 cubic meters of water per second.

The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) plays a crucial role in managing water flow, mitigating flood risks, and ensuring that downstream nations receive a steady supply of water, particularly during droughts. This carefully regulated release will significantly enhance agricultural productivity, boost power generation, and improve resource utilization throughout the region.

In this rainy season, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) has congratulated Ethiopians on the near to completion of the Abbay Dam, describing its current status as a "historical arc" that cannot be reversed.

In a video message, Abiy highlighted Ethiopia's progress on transformative projects like the GERD and the Green Legacy Initiative. "The GERD is a monumental project that everyone should witness. It stands as a powerful lesson for the entire continent of Africa," he stated, urging riparian countries like Sudan and Egypt to support the project.

The Prime Minister emphasized the vast water capacity of the Dam, noting it is possible to fill the entire reservoir in just 71 days. He also suggested that constructing additional dams could enhance year-round water flow, benefiting downstream countries.

Currently, the Dam releases 2,800 cubic meters of water per second, providing more water than usual to the downstream nations. "Ethiopia is sharing its resources with other nations for mutual development. If the lower riparian countries manage these resources wisely, it could significantly enhance their development," Abiy remarked. He assured that as further construction progresses, the Dam would provide an even better water supply.

Looking ahead, the Prime Minister revealed that by December, the Dam is expected to operate at higher capacity as water levels rise and more turbines come online. He mentioned that the Dam's bridge is nearing completion, and additional electromechanical components for new turbines will be commissioned soon.

Abiy further explained that launching all turbines simultaneously would not be beneficial; instead, a phased approach following technical guidelines is planned. "The Dam is now almost completed.

Those who invested in efforts to halt its construction have failed. While they may have caused some damage, we have successfully completed the Dam. Their resources would have been better spent supporting the project," he asserted.

By the end of the year, more turbines are expected to be operational, boosting power generation. The PM acknowledged the high cost of the project but expressed pride in achieving its ambitious goals, reiterating Ethiopia's commitment to advancing the GERD for national development and regional cooperation.

As one of the largest infrastructure projects underway in Africa, the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam is poised to be a major driver of economic growth not just for Ethiopia, but for the entire Horn of Africa region. Construction of the GERD, a massive over 5,000 MW hydroelectric Dam on the Blue Nile River, began in 2011 and is nearing completion. According to the Ethiopian government, the Dam will generate immense economic benefits for Ethiopia and foster greater regional economic integration.

At the heart of the GERD's economic impact is its vast electricity generation capacity. Once fully operational, the Dam will produce over 5,000 MW of power, making it the largest hydroelectric plant in Africa. These will be more than double Ethiopia's current electricity generation, helping to meet the country's rapidly growing domestic power demands.

"The GERD is a game-changer for Ethiopia's energy sector," Sileshi Bekele, the former Ethiopia's Minister of Water, Irrigation and Energy said adding that it will provide clean, reliable electricity to power our economic development for decades to come.

In addition to serving Ethiopia's needs, the GERD will also enable the country to export surplus electricity to neighboring countries in the Horn of Africa and beyond. According to projections from Ethiopia's Ministry of Finance, the Dam's electricity exports could generate over USD 1 billion in annual revenue for the Ethiopian government. This additional export income will be a major boon for Ethiopia's economy, helping to drive GDP growth, strengthen the national budget, and improve the country's balance of trade.

Beyond just electricity, the GERD is also poised to foster greater economic integration across the Horn of Africa. The Dam's reservoir is expected to create new opportunities for irrigation, water management, and shared natural resource development between Ethiopia and its neighbors.

"The GERD represents a unique chance for regional economic cooperation and mutual prosperity," the Ethiopian Minister of Foreign Affairs said. "By managing the Nile water resources collaboratively, we can unlock new possibilities for joint agricultural projects, industrial development, and trade between our countries."

For example, Sudan signaled its interest in purchasing electricity from the GERD to power its own economic activities. Additionally, Egypt had expressed a willingness earlier to cooperate with Ethiopia on the Dam's operation in order to ensure the equitable distribution of Nile water resources though it has continued accusing Ethiopia for holding water during rainy seasons.

"If managed responsibly, the GERD has the potential to be a catalyst for a new era of regional integration and shared economic growth. This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity that we are committed to seizing for the benefit of all our peoples."

The massive construction project underway at the GERD site has also provided a significant boost to Ethiopia's tourism and hospitality industries. Thousands of engineers, technicians, and support staff have flocked to the region, driving increased demand for housing, restaurants, transportation, and other services.

"The influx of workers for the Dam's construction has been a major boon for local businesses and job creation," Esayas Bahre, Mayor of the nearby town of Guba said. "Hotels, shops, and other enterprises are thriving as a result of the increased economic activity," he noted.

Looking ahead, the GERD's completed reservoir is also expected to become a major tourist attraction in its own right. The serene, 246-square-kilometer lake will offer ample opportunities for water sports, fishing, and other recreational activities that could draw both domestic and international visitors.

"Once the Dam is finished, we anticipate a significant uptick in tourism to the region. This will create even more jobs and economic growth, not just in hospitality, but across many other industries as well," Esayas said.

In addition to power generation and tourist attraction, the GERD will also provide a major boost to Ethiopia's agricultural productivity and food security. The Dam's reservoir will enable the expansion of large-scale irrigation systems, allowing farmers to grow crops year-round and dramatically increase crop yields.

"Irrigation from the GERD reservoir will revolutionize Ethiopia's agricultural sector," Minister of Agriculture said. And adding he said that it will enable the country to boost food production, reduce reliance on rain-fed farming, and improve national food security.

Projections from Ethiopia's Ministry of Agriculture indicate that the expanded irrigation capabilities made possible by the GERD could allow the country to increase its annual crop production by over 50%. This will not only improve domestic food supplies, but also create new agricultural export opportunities that could generate significant revenue.

"The economic benefits of the GERD go far beyond just electricity generation," Sileshi Bekele said. It is a transformative project that will catalyze growth across multiple

sectors of the nation's economy, while also fostering greater regional cooperation and shared prosperity, he added.

As Ethiopia nears the completion of this ambitious megaproject, the country is poised to reap a bounty of economic rewards that will power its continued development for decades to come.

Once completed, the Dam's reservoir will create a scenic lake that is expected to become a major tourist attraction. This will spur the development of new hotels, resorts, and recreational facilities catering to both domestic and international visitors drawn to Ethiopia's natural beauty. The increased tourist traffic will create thousands of new jobs in the hospitality sector and generate significant revenue for the Ethiopian economy.

In addition to its impact on tourism, the Renaissance Dam will also transform Ethiopia's fishery industry. The Dam's reservoir will cultivate a thriving fresh water ecosystem teeming with fish. This will allow Ethiopian fishermen to tap into a reliable, abundant source of fish to harvest and sell, boosting domestic food supplies and export potential.

The Ethiopian government is already investing in the development of new fishing infrastructure, such as hatcheries, processing facilities, and distribution networks, to maximize the economic benefits of this aquatic resource. Experts project that the fishery opportunities created by the dam could generate tens of thousands of new jobs and millions in revenue annually for Ethiopia.

Of course, the Renaissance Dam's primary purpose is to generate clean, renewable hydroelectric power - and this is where the project's greatest economic dividends lie. Once completed, the Dam will be the largest hydroelectric plant in Africa, with an installed capacity of over 5,000 megawatts.

This vast supply of electricity will help Ethiopia meet its rapidly growing domestic energy demands, which have strained the country's existing power grid. It will also enable Ethiopia to export surplus electricity to neighboring countries, generating significant export revenues. Experts estimate that the Dam's electricity generation could add over USD 1 billion per year to Ethiopia's economy.

In a nutshell, the economic benefits of the Renaissance Dam extend far beyond just electricity, however. The influx of jobs, tourism, and fishery resources stimulated by the project are poised to catalyze wider economic development and prosperity across Ethiopia. As the Dam nears completion, the country is on the cusp of an exciting new chapter of growth and transformation.

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

Editorial

Envisioning a more just, equitable world order

In the last few years, there have been various platforms devised to deepen ties and strengthen cooperation with the African states. At the heart of such platforms, the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), which was established in 2000 as a multi-faceted partnership platform between China and the African states to forge strong relationships in numerous areas, is the one.

In fact, since the past three or more decades, the China-Africa relationship and cooperation have been growing steadily and is peaking to the highest level.

Over the years, China's engagement in African countries has expanded across various sectors including trade, investment, FDI, infrastructure development, financing development projects of the latter, education, and the like areas targeting to meet the needs of the two countries under the principle of cooperation and development.

China has always been the leading partner in Africa's growth and development aspirations. Unlike other countries in the world, it has always been at the frontline in and still is in terms of backing African countries to achieve their growth aspirations and development ambitions. Ranging from infrastructure development to trade facilitation, from capacity building to healthcare and education intervention as well as increasing capital flows to the continent, the role of China in the continent's development is wide-ranging.

It is possible to say that most of the mega projects that were planned and implemented by Africans were directly or indirectly backed by the Chinese government.

The initiatives devised by the Chinese Government to break Africa's development bottlenecks and facilitate trade and economic integration through improving infrastructure connectivity across Africa such as China's Belt and Road Initiative, is also altering the continent's future prospective by offering new developmental options.

China's development-oriented cooperation and collaboration with the African countries in a manner prioritizing own interests and mutual benefits, and respecting countries' sovereignty has brought about a paradigm shift in international cooperation and transformed the continent's image in the global order.

It is clear that Africa, with its gigantic landmass, untapped vast natural resources, young, energetic, and productive demography, coupled with its growth prospect, has a lot to offer to the world. The continent can also be a reliable trade partner, an unwavering alliance for peace-building. Thus, the continent should no longer be seen as a junior.

In reality, Africa has a lesson to draw from China's steadfast growth- how the country has lifted its largest population estimated to be 700 million out of poverty in times of between three to four decades.

Currently, the 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), which is one of the Chinese development initiatives for Africa, is ongoing in Beijing, China in the presence of many African leaders and members of FOCAC. This year's summit is expected to discuss on the implementation of Africa's development blueprint - Agenda 2023; which has an ambition to accelerate Africa's journey towards a prosperous future. To this effect, Africa needs a concrete plan that brings tangible outcomes for the continent instead of mere promises. In this regard, FOCAC can be an important platform for China and African countries to renew their commitment to work for a common goal.

Equally, it initiates other countries, especially those with giant economies, to reinforce cooperation and partnership with African nations to help them realize their development targets to create a more just and equitable world order.

Opinion

FOCAC 2024: Furthering the opportunity to rise together

BY LIYIKUN EWNET

Leaders of Africa and China are meeting in Beijing to map out China-Africa future development cooperation. Africa has started to implement the second 10-year plan of Agenda 2063 that envisages elevating every AU Member State at least to a Middle-Income Status which makes this year's FOCAC Summit timelier than its predecessors.

The theme of the summit "Joining Hands to Advance Modernization and Build a High-Level China-Africa Community with a Shared Future," is well aligned with the second implementation of the AU Agenda 2063. Political and organizational leaders would find the summit very relevant to properly set the stage for Africa's transformation in the next decade.

Africa and China need one another so immensely than ever before. Trade and investment take a central stage in their affinity. Africa needs to boost intra-Africa trade and it also needs to trade among the international community, which requires huge finance and expertise. In the absence of an efficient manufacturing industry and transport networks, for instance, Africa's ambition to transit into middle income status in the second stage of the Agenda 2063 implementation remains farfetched.

The theme of this year's FOCAC is, therefore, very important.

Africa is abundantly blessed with resources and is also provides one of the largest market to trading partners like China. In this regard, China, a country with a rising economy, finds Africa a reliable trading partner. As President Xi Jinping said in his book "XI Jinping: The Governance of China", "We both view the other's development as our own opportunity, and we both seek to promote mutual development and prosperity through closer cooperation." This is the right time to further translate the vision into action.

The trajectory that China takes to extricate over 700 million people from poverty line that was achieved in 2020 is full of lessons for Africa as well. An equivalent size of population in Africa is languishing in poverty today. China not only alleviated poverty, it is still working hard and smart to preclude a downturn in the gains by zooming in on prosperity and high-quality development, including through the rural revitalization strategy with a focus in five key areas- industry development, human capital, culture, ecological environment and local governance. These lend huge lessons for African counterpart, both to detach from poverty and to sustain the gains.

Chinese counterparts are investing and reinvesting their wealth in Africa hugely. They are expanding manufacturing firms across the breadth and length of Africa providing jobs for the unemployed and transferring the needed skills. What is more, Africa's transport network is also expanding due to Chinese investment. Chinese investment within the framework of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and its investment in railways, road transport and port

development is transforming livelihoods in Africa apart from creating the opportunity to adopt the technological know-how.

Trading among African countries stands at a minimal rate, available data has it that it is kept at around 14 percent. Asian countries, including China, trade around 59 percent of their goods and services among themselves in 2022. By the same year, 68 percent of all European exports were to trading partners on the same continent, according to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

What is to blame in Africa? Of course, there are myriads of factors that set stumbling blocks to Africa's transformation.

Lack of the required clean energy, finance, technological know-how, and the like could be among the top ones that stand as a colossal challenge to Africa's development. So far, the Chinese supports helped bridge the gap. In his recent article, an economic analyst, Laurence Freeman, summarized the visible impacts of China in expanding critically needed infrastructure in Africa. According to him, China has contributed to African in the "installation of over 25 gig watts of electricity generation capacity, constructing and upgrading over 10,000 kilometers (kms) of railways; 100,000 kms of highways; over 60,000 kms of submarine cables; almost 1,000 bridges; 100 ports; and over 100 health facilities and schools."

Growing cooperation with the Chinese counterpart with a spirit enshrined in the theme of this year's FOCAC catchphrase plays an unprecedented role.

With thriving manufacturing capacity and expansion of transport networks in Africa, there is a likelihood of positively impacting the lives of Africans by creating jobs and making basic supplies available at local markets.

Most African countries export relays on raw materials. Paradoxically, Africa also imports a range of goods from Asia, Europe, and the Americas. From food to garments and ICT devices, Africa heavily depends on importing goods that originate out of the continent. No one misses that Africa is rich with mineral resources that are essential to manufacture mobile phones, for instance.

The number of mobile phone users will increase in the years to come. Some of the minerals such as tantalum, tin, tungsten, and gold as well as indium, tin, silicon, lithium, aluminum, gallium, copper, gold, silver, magnesium, nickel, tantalum, platinum are immensely available in Africa. Hence, the expansion of ICT manufacturing firms will help provide jobs to millions of youths.

Countries such as Ethiopia have made it easy for FDI inflows. Recently, the country has announced the 3rd and 4th turbines of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam started clean energy generation. With the furthering of Africa-China cooperation that will get a new momentum in the summit ahead, Africa's ambition to alleviate poverty becomes achievable.

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The Ethiopian Herald

Business & Economy

Ethiopia's membership in BRICS to expedite economic growth, uplift global standing

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

Since the time when Ethiopia joined BRICS, people from all backgrounds have been enunciating their boundless joy on the grounds that it plays a huge role in taking the country to new perspectives and new frontiers at some time in the future.

It is an accepted fact that this is the outcome of Ethiopia's success in its modern diplomacy voyage. Had the country not been successful in diplomacy, joining the bloc, which entertains all diverse voices of the globe, would have been a wild goose chase. However, through its effective diplomatic voyage, Ethiopia ended up materializing one of its dreams.

As Ethiopia has been playing a leading role in the Horn of Africa in a number of respects, joining BRICS would help the country set the scene for protecting its interest in fashioning an all-encompassing world order and expediting the country's economy. In more concrete terms, the country's admission into BRICS without a shred of doubt can grease the wheels for forging strong and lasting diplomatic cooperation.

For the sake of acting as a voice for the country's national interest and rallying behind Ethiopia's interest in worldwide institutions, all civil organizations should stand by the side of Ethiopia devoid of batting an eye. All things considered, the country has got involved in yielding a multitude of reimbursements in the shortest possible period.

From profitable opportunities to technological breakthroughs and worldwide collaboration, Ethiopia's BRICS membership is turning out to be a stimulus for growth and development as well as cement significant connections with fellow member nations.

It is worth nothing that by becoming member of the bloc, Ethiopia can gain access to a broad range of technological frameworks, code of practice in so far as it relates and other things of a similar kind more than ever before.

Ethiopia could successfully capitalize on BRICS membership to drive economic growth and development, a development advisor at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Gedion Jaleta told recently local media.

For months now, Ethiopia has officially become the newest member of the BRICS group of nations, comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa among other new members.

According to him, this historic achievement is set to unlock a myriad of advantages for Ethiopia particularly in facilitating its import and export activities without the constant reliance on some foreign currency, a longstanding challenge for the country.

It is believed that this historic breakthrough will bring about a wide spectrum of benefits for the country in paving the way for import and export trade undertakings in the Horn of Africa and beyond devoid of being fully dependent on some foreign currencies.



BRICS members will assist Ethiopia's and other new members' ambition to join the New Development Bank in a little while. In doing so, they can move their respective nations to greater heights and new boundaries.

MoFA Spokesperson, Nebiyu Tedla, in the recent past stated that the founding members of BRICS, including Russia, China, and Brazil, have committed to supporting Ethiopia's bid for NDB membership.

According to the spokesperson, the pledge came during Ethiopia's Foreign Affairs Minister Taye Atseke-Selassie's (Amb.) deliberations with his BRICS member state counterparts during the bloc's recent summit in Russia.

"BRICS members will support Ethiopia's and other new entrant's aspiration to join the New Development Bank, as stated during the joint announcement following the summit's conclusion."

He also highlighted that the joint announcement directed Ethiopia and other new BRICS member states to receive support to join the NDB based on their financial capabilities.

Foreign Minister Taye reportedly emphasized Ethiopia's aspiration within the BRICS framework during the summit. "The ongoing geopolitical tensions among superpowers have been affecting developing countries. Ethiopia believes in the need for a genuine global partnership. In this regard, the Foreign Minister urged BRICS members to craft constructive mechanisms and navigate these geopolitical challenges," Nebiyu elaborated.

The spokesperson further mentioned the necessity of the United Nations reform highlighting development financing and debt relief as issues that could be addressed through such reform. "Despite having over 190 member states, the UN and its agencies are often influenced by the decisions and struggles of a few superpowers, which Ethiopia views as undesirable."

In point of fact, Ethiopia can contribute a lot in BRICS membership in a way that can catapult the region to the next level of development at a later point in time.

There are various minerals and other natural resources in Ethiopia. BRICS nations can get raw materials for their industries from

Ethiopia. For example, Ethiopia is ranked first in Africa and fifth globally in terms of livestock population. This means that it will be able to supply meat, leather, milk, and milk products to member countries. Similarly, the availability of vast land and various climatic zones contributes to the growing of coffee and cereal products on a large scale. This indicates the presence of capacity to increase production and meet the needs of group members, according to an article.

The article goes on to say one of the most important agenda of the BRICS member countries is global warming. Renewable energy is one of the proposed solutions to this critical problem.

A major role of this grand project is the presence of many rivers in Ethiopia that can generate electricity, the presence of sufficient solar power generation potential, and the presence of natural resources capable of generating geothermal and wind energy.

Needless to say, joining BRICS without doubt plays a paramount role in ensuring the socioeconomic and political participation of the country and smoothing the path of seeing the sights of the country's future and multinational representation down the road.

To this point, the country has been involved in a wide spectrum of measures to bolster its active involvement in BRICS bloc with the purpose of smoothing the path of its national development in the shortest possible time.

In the same way, Ethiopia's entry into the bloc plays a very significant role in getting to the bottom of the country's socio economic predicaments. Ethiopia's meaningful participation in the BRICS will help the country efficiently tackle pressing challenges.

In the aftermath of Ethiopia's diplomatic achievements, the country has been pointing in the right direction. In view of this, Ethiopia has jumpstarted pointing towards the correct route.

It has commonly been assumed that if Ethiopia sustained moving in the same path, the country will reap the fruits of accomplishment and achieving the intended objective.

BRICS has provided evidence that economically developing nations acquire a surplus of collaborative missions. This is evidence that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and

World Bank (WB) are not the exclusive sources of funds. Needless to say, BRICS Development Bank can serve as grist for finance for large scale projects in the Global South.

The bloc membership would pave the way for attaining progressive growth on the basis of collaborative advantages and equality. Notwithstanding the fact that a lot has been said by some groups that feel an extreme animosity towards the progress of BRICS members' nations, they have been stepping in the right direction giving a wide berth to their barefaced lie.

A strong tie and cooperation between parliaments, especially BRICS member countries, is critical to building capacity among nations, providing technical support, and fostering other collaborative efforts, the House of Federation Speaker recently said.

It is recalled that an Ethiopian delegation led by Speaker Agegnehu Teshager participated in the 10th BRICS Parliamentary Forum held in St. Petersburg from July 11-12, 2024.

Speaking to Russia's state-run media, Sputnik, on the sidelines of the forum, Agegnehu mentioned Ethiopia's excellent relationship with the Russian parliament. He indicated that the House of Federation has a robust connection with Russia's Federation Council, and that Ethiopia aims to strengthen this relationship in areas of peace, leadership, economic development, and more.

According to Speaker Agegnehu, Ethiopia and Russia have signed nearly 22 agreements covering defense, mining, education, and other sectors, with approximately 14 of these agreements ratified.

A strong bond between BRICS and other global parliaments would enhance their ability to manage budgets and oversee government officials and ministers. Cooperation between parliaments for capacity building, technical support, and other areas is crucial for BRICS member countries and beyond.

One of the crucial rewards of BRICS membership is the setting up of the New Development Bank and the notion of making use of domestic currencies for trade with a vast range of nations in this bloc. If all BRICS member states stand in unison, turning their dreams into reality will not take that long.

Art & Culture

Finding hope at the end of summer haze

BY KALKIDAN NEGASH

Most people claim that Ethiopian seasons are very distinct from those in other parts of the world. Someone mentioned today, “the end of summer translating into fall into a specific feeling.” I cannot get it out of my mind; it is exactly how I feel at the moment.

Nothing is fresher than the start of September; everything feels brand new, and the air feels different. Spring is an amazing season to do anything with unbelievable energy and accomplish anything with extraordinary vigor. No one denies this, but I have a question here.

A dry autumn morning in Sunny with the wind blowing in your face is truly a sign that nature is seeing your health. Even the natural world takes a stand on your actions. Furthermore, psychology concurs that optimism and expectation are sparked by the New Year. Feelings of rejuvenation accompany the arrival of the New Year. It is like opening a brand-new page in a book. Meanwhile, for many Ethiopian farmers in the countryside, this is the expected season. Since it's the wet season, output is higher. In addition to consuming more grass, cows are also providing farmers with an atmosphere that is conducive to their output.

Remaining away from cloudy, gloomy, and near-dark days is a relief that Mother Nature freely bestows upon us. Some people may also experience adverse effects from specific issues. You get a sense of fulfillment when you walk outside your home and notice the clearest sky, as though something has been missing.

New Year, new plan.....yeah, every year at this time of year seems to bring about fresh experiences. I firmly disagree with this statement. Every year brings with it a sense of fresh beginnings. I firmly disagree; do we really need a new year and a new millennium to bring about change?

All of us require tangible hope. We can't deny it; hope is the belief in an uncertain future. Trusting in the future is the idea of hope. The world would become an extremely scary place to live if there was no hope. It is the specific item that is desired to occur. The initial step towards achieving your goals sets you up for success. However, hope is not enough to sustain life.

However, everything comes at a pace brick by brick that will thrill and motivate you; don't push yourself or perform tasks more quickly than necessary. Deep enthusiasm and a determined pursuit of something are the foundation



of everything. Considering that it will be boring if you lack enthusiasm and motivation. There are visual feasts, challenging situations, and breathtaking beauty in every season of the year.

Move on; this is the season; this is the time of year, this month, and this day that you truly feel alive. Now is the moment to begin the next chapter; there is no tomorrow; just act on your desires right now. The world can change with your thoughts and perspective.

Generate a mesmerizing aura that transforms an ordinary scene into a captive landscape akin to the yellow hue of Adey Abeba. Shine brightly like the exquisite springtime artwork of the sun. Blow like the boundless Tikimt bird (October wind). Ignite your own light and spread your spirit with the light of Chibo. Be remaining unwavering like Lemlem Ketema.

The summertime fog is lifting. It's almost your favorite season again.

Smile, it's an exciting voyage; the sun is rising, a new year has arrived, and September is almost here! This is the time of year to witness the splendor of the natural world.

Whatever you do, do it 100 percent when you work, work, when you laugh, laugh, and when you eat, eat like your last meal. This is the phrase in the Green Book movie, which was released in 2018. In my opinion, it has altered the way I view time, life, and the importance of the present moment. We ought to strive our very best and live as though these are our last days. Focus on the tasks at hand with all of our enthusiasm.

This is the time of year to witness the splendor of the natural world. Accompanied by calm, tranquility, and a peaceful feeling. Your favorite season is unavoidably here, as you have been anticipating all year long. So, what are you waiting for? Just wake up in your favorite season.

If not now, then when?! No regret, no blame for the past, simply thinking about the future. Spring also made for love, with fresh, comfortable evenings walking Addis Ababa thoroughfare Road. As the landscape turns golden-orange and the sun sets earlier in the evening, the end of summer is the perfect pause where do it as you expect, hyped for this. Appreciating the spectacular display of the fall foliage. You can't help but sense the romantic atmosphere as you move across a carpet of leaves and take in the beautiful reds and golds that surround you. Enjoy your self-led springtime walks while lodging in one of our wooded settings.

It's also the season of optimism and soulful desire. Instead of waiting for the ideal time, simply go ahead and embrace what you've been considering. There's no reason to wait for a different season if you are genuinely enthusiastic and passionate about it.

The world is evolving; embrace it now; don't wait for another millennium to start doing things; if you don't act now, you never will make the most of your time; you won't get it back; act now for your own good, for the well-being of your parents, your community, and your nation.

Make a mental note of this: Don't wait for a new century to accomplish what you believe in yourself to do; instead, believe in yourself and work from your heart with consistency, passion, and discipline. Do your work as much as possible with great quality. Learn something new. Play a book. Leave a lasting impression on the next generation. Your favorite season is here.

Everything is possible; you just haven't done it yet. You can!!!

Global Affairs

In Tonga the UN Secretary-General declares a global climate emergency

Three months ahead of the COP29 United Nations (UN) Climate Change Conference, the United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres, has called for an emergency response from the international community as new data from the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) reveals a critical deterioration in the state of the climate.

Scientists have called for limiting the global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels to prevent overheating of the atmosphere and a damaging rise in sea levels. But, due to inaction on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, there is an 80 percent chance that the 1.5 degree threshold will be breached within the next five years, reports the WMO.

“This is a crazy situation: rising seas are a crisis entirely of humanity’s making. A crisis that will soon swell to an almost unimaginable scale with no lifeboat to take us back to safety,” the UN Secretary-General declared in Nuku’alofa, the capital of Tonga, a Polynesian nation of about 106,000 people located southeast of Fiji, on Monday. He has been on the ground in the Pacific Islands, witnessing firsthand how people’s lives are hanging in the balance as they suffer a relentless battering of climate extremes, such as cyclones, floods, rising seas and hotter temperatures.

“Today’s reports confirm that relative sea levels in the southwestern Pacific have risen even more than the global average, in some locations by more than double the global increase in the past 30 years,” Guterres said. “If we save the Pacific, we also save ourselves. The world must act and answer the SOS before it is too late.”

According to a newly released UN report, *Surging Seas in a Warming World*, the increase in the global mean sea level was 9.4 cm, but in the southwest Pacific it was more than 15 cm between 1993 and 2023. Expanding oceans, due to melting Arctic and Antarctic ice, are projected “to cause a large increase in the frequency and severity of episodic flooding in almost all locations in the Pacific Small Island Developing States in the coming decades.” Ninety percent of Pacific Islanders live within 5 kilometres of coastlines, leaving them highly exposed to encroaching seas. Climate change impacts pose a serious threat to human life, livelihoods and food security, and the implications for increasing poverty and loss and damage are ‘profound and far-reaching,’ the report claims.

For years, Pacific Island leaders have led the way in calling for world leaders and industrialized nations to take rigorous action to halt the increasing carbon dioxide emissions destroying earth’s atmosphere. In Tonga, the Secretary-General joined many of them at the 53rd Pacific Islands Forum Leaders’ summit on the 26-27 August, including the summit’s host and Prime Minister of Tonga, Hon. Siaosi Sovaleni, Papua New Guinea’s Prime Minister, James Marape, Samoa’s



Climate change impacts pose a serious threat to human life, livelihoods and food security, and the implications for increasing poverty and loss and damage are ‘profound and far-reaching’

leader, Fiame Naomi Mata’afa and Tuvalu’s PM, Feleti Teo. And he took the opportunity to amplify their voices and their climate leadership. ‘Greenhouse gases are causing ocean heating, acidification and rising seas. But the Pacific Islands are showing the way to protect our climate, our planet and our ocean,’ he said.

The UN chief took time to listen to the voices of local communities and youth, gaining valuable insights into how the people of Tonga are responding to climate extremes and disasters.

In January 2022, a tsunami, triggered by the eruption of an undersea volcano known as Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha’apai, descended on Tonga. It reached the main island of Tongatapu and others, affecting 80 percent of the country’s population, destroying

livestock and agricultural land and causing damage of more than USD 125 million. Guterres met with people in the coastal villages of Kanokupolu and Ha’atafu, which were devastated when the tsunami swept through and surveyed the ruins of beach resorts and coastal infrastructure while witnessing the resilience and determination of those who have rebuilt their homes and lives.

Two years ago, the UN also launched ‘Early Warnings for All’, a project aimed at installing early warning systems in every country by 2027 in order to save lives and prevent damage.

“With the increase in the intensity of tropical cyclones and flooding [in the Pacific], simple weather forecasting is not enough for people to prepare for these natural disasters,” Arti Pratap, an expert on tropical cyclones who lectures in Geospatial Science at the University of the South Pacific in Fiji, told IPS. She said it was important to “focus on building the capacity of communities to make use of the information provided by national meteorological services in the Pacific on an hourly, daily and monthly basis for decision-making.”

UN Secretary-General António Guterres visits a house in Lalomanu that has been abandoned due to storm damage and flooding as a result of climate change during his trip to Samoa.

Many farmers, for instance, “tend to rely on readily available traditional knowledge on weather and climate and its interaction with the environment around them, which they are familiar with. However, traditional knowledge may not be sufficient in the background of global warming,” Pratap said.

The UN initiative involves the setting up of meteorological observation stations, ocean sensors and radars to better predict extreme weather and disaster events. According to the UN, providing 24 hours’ notice of an approaching disaster can reduce damage by 30 percent. As part of the project, Guterres launched a new weather radar at Tonga’s International Airport.

His week-long tour of the Pacific Islands, which also included time in Samoa, New Zealand and East Timor, was an opportune moment for Guterres to open conversations about the goals that will be on the table at COP29, to be held in Baku, Azerbaijan, on 11-22 November.

The key priorities of this year’s climate summit will be, among others, limiting the global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius and achieving broad agreement on the scale and provision of climate finance. ‘The one thing that is very clear in my presence here is to be able to say loud and clear from the Pacific Islands to the big emitters that it is totally unacceptable, with devastating impacts of climate change, to go on increasing emissions,’ Guterres declared in Nuku’alofa on August 26, 2024.

And, for many Pacific Islanders, gaining better access to climate finance is vital. The development organization, Pacific Community, reports that the region will require at least USD 2 billion per year to implement climate resilience and adaptation projects and transition to renewable energy. This far exceeds what the Pacific is currently receiving in climate finance, which is about USD 220 million per annum.

“Despite the commendable pledges from the United Nations and world leaders, such as the Paris Agreement, the existing global finance mechanisms still hinder community-based and youth organizations from accessing critical support,” Mahoney Mori, Chairman of the Pacific Youth Council, told local media during a meeting between the UN Chief and Pacific youth leaders in Tonga’s capital.

‘As a first step, all developed countries must honor their commitment to double adaptation finance to at least USD 40 billion per year by 2025,’ the UN Secretary General said on World Environment Day on June 24.

Tonga’s Prime Minister, Hu’akavemeiliku Siaosi Sovaleni, summed up the views of many in the Pacific as world attention focused on his island nation with the visit of the UN Secretary-General: “We need a lot more action than just words,” he said at the Pacific leaders meeting. Referring to a minor earthquake that shook the islands as leaders converged on Tonga, he added, “We put on a show with the rain and a bit of flooding and also shook you guys up a little bit by that earthquake, just to wake you up to the reality of what we have to face here in the Pacific.”

Sorce: Interpress Service

Law & Politics

Reversing the Red Flag in the Red Sea

BY DESTA GEBREHIWOT

The Red Sea and the Horn Africa regions have been teetering into the brink of open confrontations with a cloud of insecurity hanging over the strategic location. The militarized region has been wallowing in the quagmire of a cycle of conflict with ongoing internal unrest, civil war, and sporadic conflicts raging in regional countries.

Foreign intervention and proxy war have already placed the region into a bottomless pit. While the impoverished peoples of the region continue to languish in conflicts and natural disasters, some external forces have been trying to play a gambit creating a global humanitarian catastrophe.

While countries like Ethiopia try to find peaceful solutions to diplomatic spats, some foreign entities stock violence either by creating confusion or making interventions. Various proxies have been trying to inflame ongoing skirmishes between factions and add fuel to minor incidents between states of the region.

As a matter of fact while there have been some attempts by disputant countries to resolve contentious issues and mend rifts, some foes that want to push the region to further chaos have been planting a seed of discord through unholy intervention.

Already serving as a flashpoint of vicious conflicts and battlefields of heavyweight nations, the region has seen tension building up recently due to some leaders' stubborn position to settle disputed issues cool-headedly.

External forces are trying to increase their unholy presence using Somalia's security vacuums fanning minor fuss. For many including Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, the rift between Ethiopia and Somalia whose relations stand the test of time could and should be resolved devoid of third parties.

However, the agreement between Ethiopia and Somaliland on sea access is a significant development that opens the door to much-needed regional integration. The agreement is susceptible to regional and continental goals and has increased hope for an integrated Horn. To the level-headed, the agreement even offers a clever illustration of how to adopt strategy. It is in the best interests of the regional countries to share resources and integrate the Horn region, since both population expansion and economic growth are expected to accelerate.

Ethiopia anticipates rapid population growth and economic expansion, therefore the deal is a wise decision made at the ideal moment. Without enough port options, meeting the nation's rapidly increasing demands is unthinkable. Ethiopia is at a disadvantage in international trade because it relies on a single port and coastal nation. Direct access to the sea is an existential

necessity for a nation home to more than 100 million people. Being closer to the Indian and Red Seas, having a variety of port options and easy access to the water is an important yet necessary duty.

Relying solely on a single port of entry presents significant threats to national security and the economy since the nation is shrouded in uncertainty. These factors have led the Ethiopian government to look into other port access, and their most recent agreement with Somaliland is a direct result of their ongoing efforts to counter the challenges that come with being a landlocked nation. Through official and amicable agreements, the nation can expand its port options, which are loaded with enormous economic benefits, from Berbera to Assab.

The nation is required by regional and international geopolitical dynamics to search for dependable and different sea outlets or ports. The Red Sea has been heavily bombarded over the past few weeks, disrupting economic channels. The country should diversify its port choices due to the militarization of the Red Sea and the growing risks of piracy and militant attacks on commercial channels in key regions. With the increasing dangers to national security and the economy, the nation cannot afford to remain a spectator.

Countries in the region should develop various socioeconomic initiatives to survive collective problems and make the best use of limited resources since economic integration promotes regional cooperation. The interdependence of nations is growing as a result of this tendency. The increasingly severe effects of climate change are encouraging, if not compelling, countries to explore the most cooperative options.

Many believed that accelerating economic integration would lead to the formation of a single political community. In the face of continental and global dynamism, cooperation is not a choice for African nations—it is a need. Ethiopia has been leading the way in encouraging neighboring countries to work for regional integration in this area.

Ethiopia has been spearheading regional integration through connecting the neighboring countries with electricity, and energy. The mega projects that the country is building have the borders benefit. Simultaneously, the country has been investing hugely in joint infrastructural projects contributing to regional developments. Efforts of connecting the country to Djibouti, Sudan, Kenya, and South Sudan by power, road, and railway transport are at the heart of Ethiopia's inclusive growth; once the Abbay Dam is completed, the country will be exporting to countries afar.

Ethiopia's Foreign Minister, Ambassador Taye Atske-Selassie emphasized that the people of the Horn of Africa, united by strong friendships and community ties, are

no longer bound by past hostilities. The Minister briefed local and international media outlets today on Ethiopia's foreign relations and current regional developments, with a particular focus on the Horn of Africa. In his briefing Ambassador Taye advocated peaceful resolution of differences to reclaim lost opportunities for shared growth, warning against attempts to drive a wedge between communities across borders.

Ethiopia values the shared history and traditions with neighboring communities, noting that past hostilities should no longer hinder cooperation.

The ambassador underscored that efforts to create divisions between communities are futile and emphasized the importance of resolving differences peacefully to reclaim opportunities for shared growth. He highlighted Ethiopia's ongoing concerns about the situation in Somalia, noting the sacrifices made by Ethiopian troops in the pursuit of peace and the desire to avoid chaos spilling over the border. Since 2005, the Ethiopian troops have made significant sacrifices to support the stability of Somalia, with many individuals losing their lives in the process. It is inappropriate to undermine the sacrifices made by these troops, FM Taye underlined stressing the need for Ethiopia and Somalia to strengthen their joint efforts to combat terrorism and tackle al-Shabaab.

He further emphasized Somalia's right to establish diplomatic relations with other countries, provided that these relations do not pose a threat to neighboring nations.

Regarding the facilitated talks between Ethiopia and Somalia, in Ankara, Ambassador Taye acknowledged the progress made but cautioned against letting provocative comments and actions from hostile entities undermine these efforts. He criticized collaboration with such forces as short-sighted and counterproductive while reiterating Ethiopia's readiness to resolve disputes with Somalia through peaceful means.

"These efforts have made progress and are promising to yield results. These efforts must not be undermined by provocative statements. Collusion with forces hostile to peace in this region is also short-sighted and counterproductive," he pointed out.

The ambassador also addressed the situation in Sudan, reiterating Ethiopia's support for the Sudanese people in their quest for peace. Commending those working to restore stability in Sudan and emphasizing the importance of consolidating progress in various initiatives, Taye stressed that lasting peace must be driven by the Sudanese themselves. The ambassador also affirmed Ethiopia's support for South Sudan in implementing the revitalized peace agreement. He also highlighted Ethiopia's commitment to maintaining strong, respectful relationships with countries across Africa and the world.

Ethiopia values the shared history and traditions with neighboring communities, noting that past hostilities should no longer hinder cooperation

Planet Earth

Ethiopia Green Legacy Initiative significantly cutting global greenhouse gas emission

BY FIKADU BELAY

Climate change is an imminent threat of our planet at this time. It is creating profound shifts in our environment, affecting every aspect of our life. One of the most pressing consequences of this global phenomenon is its impacts on food security worldwide. Dozens of millions are at risk of hunger due to disruptions in the security of food and water caused by rising temperatures, changing patterns of precipitation, and an increase in the frequency of extreme weather events.

Arable land is becoming desert, crops are not producing enough, and pure freshwater sources are being poisoned or running out. The ensuing humanitarian emergencies may surpass even the most extensive armed battles in terms of the amount of suffering they cause.

Deadly infectious diseases are emerging and spreading more widely as a result of climate change. Additionally, it causes mass displacement brought on by climate disasters, which is already making it more difficult for countries to offer humanitarian relief. It also raises the possibility of armed conflict over scarce resources and heightens geopolitical tensions.

The possibility of a collapse of society is increased by the systemic character of these issues, as numerous. Due to these problems are systemic in nature, there is a chance that civilization could collapse when the many interconnected systems that support human societies experience previously unheard-of strain.

With its revolutionary initiative, Ethiopia has become a ray of hope amidst the urgent environmental concerns facing the entire world. This Initiative establishes a deep awareness of the complex relationship between the welfare of the people of the country and a robust, healthy ecosystem.

Ethiopia, a nation rich in agricultural history, has had to deal with the fallout from unsustainable farming methods, fast population increase, and unrelenting resource exploitation. As a result, the amount of forest cover, soil fertility, and general environmental resilience have all steadily decreased.

Ethiopia's significant issues with deforestation and environmental deterioration are what inspired the beginning of the Green Legacy Initiative. The nation has lost a large amount of its natural forest cover over the previous few decades as a result of unsustainable timber resource harvesting, animal grazing, and agricultural growth. Ethiopia's biodiversity, soil fertility, water supplies, and climate have all suffered greatly as a result.

Ethiopia's Forestry Development, Director General, Kebede Yimam, highlighted the



transformative impact of the Green legacy Program, emphasizing that it extends far beyond merely increasing agricultural production. The initiative has not only enhanced productivity within Ethiopia but has also provided significant economic benefits to the East African region as well the globe.

He mentioned that land degradation has long posed a challenge for Ethiopia, but the Green legacy initiative, now in its fifth year, is addressing this issue head-on. By focusing on reforestation and sustainable land management, the program is mitigating the effects of climate change while simultaneously creating job opportunities for citizens. He noted that the initiative has the potential to deliver an economically prosperous Ethiopia to future generations.

Over the past five years, approximately 32.5 billion saplings have been planted as part of the Green legacy Program. This extensive reforestation effort has led to the restoration of previously dried-up rivers and has contributed to increased tax revenues and industrial expansion. Through creating employment opportunities

for the unemployed, the program is not only enhancing the livelihoods of many Ethiopians but also positively impacting neighboring countries economically.

The GLI offers a wide range of services that are essential for food production, animal feed, soil and water protection, and urban beautification. He emphasized the intrinsic connection between humans and ecosystems, stating that the health of one directly affects the other. The seedlings cultivated through this initiative are also being utilized for construction, woodworking, and food production, thereby boosting income for local producers.

He stated that the results of the Green legacy Program are evident. Ethiopia's forest cover has risen significantly, from 17.2% to 23.6%. This increase is crucial in combating climate change, a pressing global issue that affects all nations.

He pointed out that Ethiopia currently produces 2.8 billion tons of carbon while absorbing 10.2 billion tons of carbon dioxide. By enhancing forest cover, the country is taking meaningful steps to reduce

its carbon footprint and contribute to global climate solutions.

In his part, senior researcher and soil science professor, Yihenew GebreSelassie stated the remarkable contribution of Ethiopia's forest cover which has increased the country's carbon dioxide absorption capacity significantly.

According to him, the forest cover of the country which stood at only 3% in the 1980s has risen to 23.9% in 2024 (in about 4 decades), leading to an increase in carbon dioxide absorption capacity by 790%. He noted that since the past five years of the Green legacy initiative impact, this capacity has seen substantial improvement.

As to the Professor, forests play a vital role in climate regulation through carbon dioxide absorption as, on average, a single tree can absorb up to 25 kg of CO₂ per year.

He also highlighted that greenhouse gases—including methane, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen oxides—pose significant environmental challenges. The current data indicates that Ethiopia's forest cover has indeed reached 23.9% (in 2024). However, he stressed that merely planting seedlings is not sufficient; ongoing care and maintenance are crucial for their survival and effectiveness.

The Ethiopian government is dedicated to the sustainable development and protection of natural resources. He remarked that the culture of planting and nurturing saplings has become ingrained in society, reflecting a collective commitment to environmental stewardship. This cultural shift is vital for the long-term success of the initiative.

As the program continues to evolve, Kebede asserted that it is essential to strengthen its efforts to ensure the ongoing multifaceted benefits it brings to the country and its neighbors. Through fostering a culture of environmental awareness and sustainability, Ethiopia can pave the way for a greener, more prosperous future for generations to come.

He mentioned that the Green Legacy program as an excellent model for mitigating climate change, providing economic benefits, ensuring soil safety, and reducing the risk of natural disasters.

He said that forest planting is a continuous effort that requires universal commitment and generational investment. He urged all citizens to prioritize the Green legacy initiative to foster a more stable world and reduce both natural and man-made disasters.

Through initiatives like the Green legacy Program, Ethiopia is not only addressing its environmental challenges but also setting a precedent for other nations in the region to follow suit. In doing so, it is positioning itself as a leader in sustainable development and environmental conservation in East Africa as well the globe.