



The Ethiopian Herald

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Effective migration management crucial to Africa's progress: UNECA

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA - Effective migration management, driven by stakeholder engagement and data-driven policymaking, is critical for advancing Africa's economic development, said Claver Gatete, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA).

Gatete, made these remarks while addressing the second regional migration review meeting.

He underscored the vital role migration plays as a catalyst for economic growth, modernization, and innovation, noting that if properly managed, migration could help African states meet their development goals. He emphasized the need for African countries to overcome migration barriers to fully harness the benefits it offers, including boosting economies and fostering socio-political stability.

Speaking on the complexities of the continent's
See Effective migration... page 3



Photo: Dagne Abera

Claver Gatete

Flames of change: Ethiopia, Poland unite for safety

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

Ethiopia, in partnership with various stakeholders, is making concerted efforts to build its emergency response capacity in fire and disaster risk management systems to mitigate risks. Recently, the International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR) and the Polish Center for International Aid (PCPM) launched a project aimed at developing emergency and disaster response services. This two-year, seven-month initiative, funded by the Polish government at a cost of 1.6 million USD, focuses on enhancing the skills of firefighters and equipping

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Prof. Mekonnen Ayana

CFA promises fair water sharing, reduces accusations

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA - The enforcement of the Nile Basin Cooperative Framework Agreement (CFA) is poised to help riparian countries, including Ethiopia, prevent baseless accusations, according to a prominent water resource scholar.

See CFA promises ... page 3

African youth hail Addis's tourism destinations, dev't activities

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA - African Youth visitors have appreciated the ongoing construction of the metropolitan's tourism destinations and various development activities apart from sharing their first hand experiences.

The youth people who came from various African countries aiming at participating in the 1st thousand African Youth Summit on Food Systems and Agro-ecology 2024 here also visited tourism destinations and other related development activities as well.

France-Kenyan Visitor, Nastasia Thebaud-Njenga told The Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that Addis is rich in diverse culture. A lot of progressing have been showcasing during the past few years. Besides, the cultural and historical heritages are so wonderful aside from promoting tourism industry alongside a warm-welcomed people.

"Particularly I am interested by Ethiopia's historical aspect that has never been colonized, the place of the headquarters

of the African Union (AU), attractive food culture, ethnic diversity, and the likes, which is I defiantly impressive," she added.

She further stated that the spirit of the Ethiopian people, culture, and the altitude of Addis is a state of living and Africa's destination. It is also a symbol of peace at all.

From Kenya, Nairobi, Vinceni Oileno on his part said that a lot of tourism destinations have been constructing in Addis like Friendship Squire whilst such kind of places needs to depict Africa's potential. "Yes each African country has its own special feel but when we talk about Ethiopia what comes immediately in our mind is that it is a place of African origin,"

He further stated that cities and leaders of African countries should encourage tourism destination development and ecological perspective to promote holistic prosperity.

He advised that accelerating multinational development, working with various sectors,

See African youth. .. page 3



Nyijmah Opoakpajor



Vinceni Oileno

Women's irreplaceable role in economic advancement

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AASTU STEM Center, Kids Science Experiment program:

Trajectories to nurture youth talents in STEM education

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Tadesse Chafo

House Speaker underlines working on ensuring prosperity

BY MESERET BEHAILU

SULILTA – House of People Representatives (HoPRs) underscored integrating ideas and implementing are crux of matter to fulfill holistic prosperity.

The above statement was made by HoPRs' House Speaker, Tadesse Chafo yesterday during the commencement of this year managerial training for HoPRs' member and the House of Federation (HoF) under the theme: "The Dream of Energy for Remarkable Development" on the premises of African Leadership Excellence Academy (AFLEX).

In his opening speech, Tadesse said that a number of activities are expected from participants to run the next constructive engagement. Joint effort would play a significant role in bringing national development.

As to him, the training is a national concern due to evaluate the past walks of life, threats, and future opportunity which aims to realize Ethiopia's ambition in forwarding all-inclusive development in the years to come.

HoPRs Chief Government Whip, Tesfaye Beljige (PhD) on his part said that the main aims of this year training is giving due attention on working cooperatively for future prosperity. Such types of training have been carried out the past three consecutive years.

Tesfaye added that the training has a multilayered importance such as capacitating the participants, understanding and analyzing the full image of the local, national, continental, and global situations, evaluating the past years activities, sharing responsibility, gaining additional knowledge, and information.

He further stated that participants would be able to equipped adequate knowledge on challenges and opportunities after the completion of the training. They also contribute ideas that assist for nation building.

"A number of issues such as the energy of dream in past, present, and future, national, political, economy, foreign relation, security and peace, institutional, ethics, and leadership remarkability in their stay of a week there. The two houses and other government officials have been attending in the training. Participants attained the Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's presents of a number of progressing issues such as corridor development, agriculture, tourism, house renovation, macroeconomic stability, technology, and the likes through display.

Gamo's Dubusha set to join UNESCO's heritage list

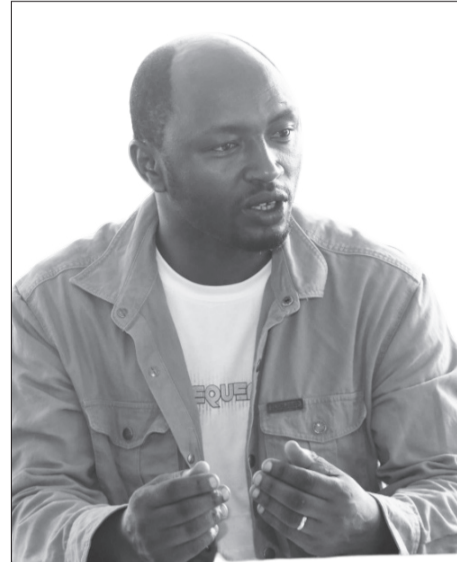
BY MEKDES TAYE

ARBA MINCH – Efforts to register the Gamo Dubusha cultural tradition with UNESCO are progressing, aiming to preserve its values for future generations and promote indigenous conflict resolutions, the zonal chief said.

Speaking to *The Ethiopian Herald*, Gamo Zone Chief Administrator Abayneh Abera noted that in collaboration with Arba Minch University and the Ethiopian Heritage Authority, the zone administration is working to secure UNESCO recognition for Dubusha, ensuring its legacy is preserved and shared globally.

He also emphasized the significance of Dubusha's teachings, which reflect a deep commitment to truth, respect, and reconciliation- essential elements for fostering peaceful coexistence.

"The core of Dubusha is about speaking the truth, making judgments based



Abayneh Abera

on truth, and promoting respect," the administrator explained. He highlighted how elders, known as *Derie*, oversee disputes within their communities, addressing conflicts with a focus on peace and unity. Police records from the state indicate that more than 67 percent

of local disputes are resolved through this traditional system.

Abayneh underscored that Dubusha offers a more sustainable approach to peace compared to modern legal systems, as it encourages victims and offenders to reconcile without revenge. "The goal is to restore empathy and rebuild relationships," he said, describing the cultural meetings as spaces for healing and harmony.

Respect for elders is deeply ingrained in Gamo society, with young people taught to honor the wisdom of the older generation. "Disrespecting elders is seen as a grave sin and a social taboo," Abayneh noted. To further promote these values, efforts are underway to document the culture through journals, pamphlets, and exhibitions.

The administrator also stressed the relevance of indigenous practices for addressing modern conflicts: "Our country needs solutions rooted in its own culture. Gamo elders have repeatedly demonstrated their ability to mediate disputes and restore peace."



TeleTv generates 25 mln USD for Ethiopia in 4 months

• *Yeras Menged* now streaming on TeleTv

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA – TeleTv, a newly launched entertainment platform, has injected 25 million USD into the Ethiopian economy within its first four months, according to Besufekad Getachew, Founder and CEO of Eaglelion.

In a press briefing yesterday, Besufekad highlighted that TeleTv is fully developed under Eaglelion system technology, providing a diverse collection of movies, TV series, shows, and exclusive interviews. The platform features a user-friendly interface and personalized recommendations to enhance the viewing experience for its subscribers, which now exceed 100,000.

Besufekad also emphasized that TeleTv offers flexible payment options, allowing subscribers to choose payment methods that suit their convenience. He noted that

this flexibility could significantly enhance accessibility to the cinema industry and address ongoing copyright concerns that have plagued content creators in the region.

In addition to its mobile application, the CEO announced the company's plans to launch a television channel to further expand its reach and provide a broader range of content for viewers. This move aims to bridge the gap between digital streaming and traditional television, offering audiences more ways to enjoy Ethiopian cinema.

Director and Scriptwriter of a new film featured on the platform, Artist Solomon Bogale, expressed his excitement about TeleTv's role in enhancing the cinema industry. He remarked that the platform could promote Ethiopia's rich culture, values, and essence through its films, making the Ethiopian cinema industry more internationally acceptable, akin to Bollywood and other successful film

industries.

Solomon underscored the platform's potential in generating income not only for producers and artists but also for the nation as a whole. He noted that TeleTv's contribution to the economy could help support local filmmakers and encourage the creation of more high-quality content.

A new film aired yesterday that participated in a prestigious Pan-African film festival featuring over 150 countries, where it ranked among the top ten films and received an appreciation certificate.

TeleTv offers high-quality cinema films at affordable prices, featuring titles such as "Sidist Seat Kelelitu," "Doka," "Tikur Adey," "Quragnaye," "Tizita," and "Kerebe." With its innovative approach and commitment to supporting the local cinema industry, TeleTv is poised to play a significant role in the growth of Ethiopia's entertainment landscape, it was stated.

News

Flames of change: ...

facilities. The project primarily targets the Addis Ababa City Administration Fire and Disaster Risk Management Commission's (AAFDRMC) capabilities.

Speaking to The Ethiopian Herald, AAFDRMC's Emergency Response and Ambulance Service Director Umer Abdurezak stated that as the city expands, there is a pressing need to improve fire and disaster risk management services. The commission is implementing institutional reforms to address sector challenges and enhance emergency response, structured around five key pillars.

The collaboration between PCPM and AAFDRMC presents an opportunity

to bridge skill gaps through training and equipment modernization. This partnership aims to bolster the commission's performance, particularly in skills training with technical support, ultimately enhancing the capabilities of firefighters.

PCPM CEO Wojtek Wilk (PhD) emphasized that the project will significantly contribute to filling sector gaps by strengthening fire brigades through capacity building for firefighters and ambulance crews. The project prioritizes three East African countries—Ethiopia, Kenya, and Tanzania—specializing in training, equipment provision, and capacity building for emergency response services.

“We aim to support Ethiopia, especially AAFDRMC, in establishing an integrated ambulance and fire brigade system. Our goal is to enhance emergency response capacity for the public, thereby improving the commission's effectiveness. We hope our achievements in Addis Ababa will serve as a model for other countries,” Wilk stated.

Since 2015, PCPM, in collaboration with IIRR, has supported cities such as Bahir Dar, Gondar, Dessie, Kombolcha, Woliata Sodo, Dila, Hossana, and Hawassa by establishing fire brigades and providing skills training. The organization is committed to strengthening its collaboration with the Addis Ababa City Administration.

The fire and disaster risk management sector faces various challenges in Addis Ababa and other cities. Initiatives are underway to enhance professional skills, as the city has only basic emergency response capabilities compared to other regions. The program aims to train nearly 500 professionals, including nurses and drivers, each year.

“We need to address the distinct challenges at various levels, as the issues in Addis and other cities differ significantly. This long-term commitment project is designed to yield positive results across the country,” the CEO emphasized. He also noted that Polish government support extends beyond fire and disaster risk management, with plans for new areas of assistance in the future.

CFA promises...

Speaking to the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Adama Science and Technology University's Water Resource Engineering Professor Mekonnen Ayana stated that false allegations against Ethiopia and other upstream countries will diminish with the CFA's implementation. He emphasized that the CFA is a multilateral agreement designed to ensure equitable use of the Nile's water rather than granting supremacy to any single nation.

“Beyond promoting equity, the agreement plays a critical role in preserving water resources and fostering mutual benefits through joint projects, which will enhance cooperation among riparian nations,” he explained. With the CFA in place, Ethiopia, often the target of unfounded accusations, will be better equipped to defend itself.

The CFA's entry into force follows years of negotiations among Nile Basin countries. Prof. Mekonnen highlighted that the principles adopted in the final framework will be vital in resolving disputes. He pointed out that the colonial-era agreements favored downstream nations have been legally invalidated by the new

principles agreed upon by the majority of riparian states.

Moreover, he noted that the significance of the CFA extends beyond legal considerations. “There are over 276 trans-boundary rivers in the world that experience far fewer conflicts than the Nile. Frameworks like the CFA are essential for fostering harmonious relations among countries,” he said.

“If Egypt and Sudan continue to resist change, they signal their unwillingness to achieve sustainability, which could undermine their credibility in the international community,” he warned. The expert suggested that both Sudan and Egypt are likely to join the soon-to-be-established Nile Basin Commission, given the benefits it offers. “The Commission will help them secure their fair share of the river's resources,” he added.

Following years of negotiations, the CFA officially came into force on October 13, 2024, marking a significant step towards collaborative water governance and reducing conflicts among the eleven Nile Basin countries.

African youth...

tourism packaging, effective market promotion, bridging infrastructural gaps and the likes would play a decisive role in tourism industry, across African continent.

Nyijmah Opoakpajor, from Ghana who is trainer in Agro-ecology there on his part said “This is my first time to be here-Addis. I wish visit Addis again when I have an opportunity because I love the city. I see the indigenous trees, which is showcasing that they need to give value for our resource.”

“As Ethiopia is the land of coffee, it needs coffee plantation in tourism destination areas because, it is another system of promoting coffee product for tourists,” he added.

He recommended that concerned bodies' across the African continent should work strongly on reducing bureaucratic red tape and establishing enabled environment for tourists. For instance, traveling in Africa and traveling in Europe varying due to their systems.

The youth people have been visiting Friendship Square, Adwa Victory Memorial Museum, African Union, and Meskel Square.



Nastasia Thebaud-Njenga

Effective migration...

migration landscape, the executive secretary pointed out that rising poverty, unemployment, and limited social protections are significant contributors to the increasing migration outflows from Africa. He shared data showing that between 2010 and 2020, the number of African emigrants jumped from 20.3 million to 35.5 million, representing 14.5% of global migration.

Gatete also highlighted the demographic challenge, with 20% of Africa's population aged between 15 and 24 years, and youth unemployment rates hovering around 60%. He

remarked that migration has often been viewed as a necessary escape from the lack of local opportunities, making it imperative for governments to focus on creating sustainable jobs for the youth.

The executive secretary further stressed the importance of developing home-grown solutions that support job creation and foster innovation within the continent, adding that recognizing and leveraging African skills is critical for boosting labor mobility and increasing productivity.

Gatete also called for wide-reaching

reforms, particularly in social security systems and climate migration policies, to ensure the rights and protection of climate migrants, who are increasingly vulnerable to the effects of environmental changes. He urged African nations to integrate climate migration measures into their national policies to safeguard those affected by environmental disasters and shifting climatic conditions.

In addition to enhancing national policies, Gatete stressed the importance of cross-border collaboration and harmonized data collection,

recommending the integration of migration data into national censuses to ensure more effective and informed policymaking.

Also, the ECA Executive Secretary reiterated the commission's strong commitment to working with member states to build coherent and robust migration frameworks. Gatete noted that with the right policies and collective commitment, migration can be transformed into a powerful driver of sustainable development across Africa.

Opinion

Ethiopia's commitment to refugee welfare as a model for international community

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

It becomes apparent that numerous situations impel people to leave their respective countries and pass through a diverse range of twists and turns as consequence of a number of reasons. As a general rule, people migrate on account of absence of peace, political unrest, in search of better living conditions and other things of a similar kind.

In point of fact, people leave their respective nations as a result of multiple known and unknown reasons. It appears clear that when they leave their respective nations they suffer from psychological disorders, social isolation and more of the same.

It is a well-known fact that whenever refugees come to Ethiopia from assorted aspects of the world seeking shelter, the country treats them with hospitality. On the heels of the welcoming atmosphere, they feel at home and get along with others without any worries at the drop of a hat.

In actual fact, as Ethiopia is a safe haven, refugees have been leading life worthwhile in view of the fact that authorities concerned have been attaching due importance to refugees' wellbeing over and over again.

As appropriate authorities every once in a while focus on making the condition suitable for refugees, the wider international community has been patting the federal government on the back and taking pleasure in the positive achievements. There is no doubt that the fate of refugees is determined by the existing situation of the country in which they seek asylum.

It is crystal clear that Ethiopia with a long history of accommodating refugees from multiple parts of the world has continued welcoming them with open arms.

The existing circumstance on the ground has been witnessed by the international community. In the present circumstances, the government has sustained carrying out countless undertakings to make Ethiopia an ideal place for refugees.

On the heels of the positive strides of the federal government, refugees in Ethiopia have been leading a meaningful life in defiance of encounters that need lasting solutions. For the sake of truth, as the government alone cannot fully meet all the needs required for refugees, the international community should go to the ends of the earth to support and make their life easier and less stressful.

Similarly, it is obvious that the government has been working around the clock to create jobs for refugees residing under the umbrella of Ethiopia. Following its commitment and hard work, thousands of jobs have been created for them. On the basis thereof, the deliberate objective has set in motion moving in the right direction and bearing fruits.



The Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) has announced the creation of over 33,000 jobs for refugees across various sectors during the last fiscal year.

The Refugees Protection and Return Department Deputy Director General and Leader Biruhtesfa Mulugeta in the recent past highlighted that these jobs include both self-employment opportunities, such as running shops and engaging in trade, and positions with employers.

The Ethiopian government has been actively providing legal protection and employment opportunities for refugees in collaboration with various stakeholders.

In comparison with other nations, it can be said that the way Ethiopia treats refugees band together with the international law. This is to guard the physical, psychological and human rights of refugees in the course of their stay.

As long as Ethiopia works around the clock with the intention of making the lives of refugees easier, the international community should stand by the side of the federal government. In the present circumstances, Ethiopia has been moving heaven and earth to make refugees seeking shelter in the country more interesting than ever before.

In the same way, as Ethiopia works on a day to day basis with a focus on fashioning a suitable environment for refugees, stakeholders should support the federal government without even blinking their eyes. Additionally, taking the number of immigrants residing under Ethiopia's skies into consideration, every Tom, Dick, and Harry should attach due importance to the matter with a focus on improving the lives of the refugees.

In point of fact, following the positive achievement of the government on the subject of taking care of refugees, the country has been gaining significant recognition and enjoying great respect.

Ethiopia's Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) and the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) have established a new site for people who have fled the devastating war in Sudan, according to information obtained from local media.

The new site, Aftit, is located in the Amhara region of Ethiopia following the closure of two other sites, Awlala and

Kumer. The new site has enhanced security through engagement with local authorities and hosting communities for the better protection of refugees.

RRS, UNHCR and partners continue to improve the services provided, including food assistance, clean water supply, sanitation facilities, medical aid and protection.

"Ethiopia is committed to protecting refugees that seek safety in the country, and together with UNHCR and partners, ensuring they are supported with lifesaving assistance," RRS Director General Teyiba Hassen said.

Nearly 3,000 men, women and children were transported to Aftit, while several hundred more who were staying in different locations within the Amhara region have so far moved on their own to this new site, which has a capacity to host up to 12,500 people.

UNHCR Representative in Ethiopia Andrew Mbogori said, "Following the closure of Kumer and Awlala sites, the efficient coordination with Ethiopian authorities and partners allowed us to swiftly identify the new site and begin the work of setting up essential services."

This will allow refugees to find stability and rebuild their lives in a safer environment, with the generous support from the host community, he added.

Despite the heavy rains that are complicating the overall movements in the region, site development in Aftit continue, and Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS), UNHCR, and partners are working tirelessly to ensure basic services are available for refugee families.

Local authorities have also committed to ensuring the inclusion of refugees in education and health systems. This reality on the ground demonstrates in black and white the fact that Ethiopia has been attaching great importance to the wellbeing of refugees with the intention of making their future rosy.

As nothing makes the federal government of Ethiopia and partners involved happier than standing by the side of refugees coming from myriads of the world, they pull out all the stops to meet their needs in the face of challenges no matter what the cost may be.

Apart from welcoming refugees from miscellaneous parts of the world, Ethiopia at various points in time has been ratifying a considerable amount of rules and regulations with the purpose of making their stay free from challenges. Reasoning from this fact, the international community should follow in the footsteps of Ethiopia without batting an eyelid.

It is recalled that speaking to the Ethiopian Press Agency, Refugees Affair Senior Communication Officer Englize Ketema (PhD) in the recent past stated that refugees are attending education in preschools, primary schools and secondary schools.

Totally, 168,269 refugees are attending formal education in 65 preschools, 53 primary and 11 secondary schools. In addition, some public schools nearby in refugees' camps are also delivering services. Public universities are also receiving and providing scholarships to refugees without any special requirement and any refugee who has a pass mark in university entrance exam are also being treated equally.

According to him, the Ministry of Education in collaboration with aid organizations is providing the education service to refugees. Children nearby refugee camps are also learning with the refugees.

Ethiopia is the third African country for hosting refugee students following Uganda and Sudan. South Sudanese, Somalis, and Eritrean students take the largest number of refugee students in Ethiopia. Addis Ababa, Gambella, Somali, Benishangul Gumuz, Afar, Amhara, and Tigray are hosting a large number of refugee students, the officer elaborated.

Ethiopia is operating durable solutions for refugees and adopted a comprehensive plan of action to grant refugees the right to work, movement, access to formal and non-formal education and other privileges. The government has also made quite a lot of commitments in legal frameworks to support refugees and they are included in the sixth series of educational sector development plan and management information system.

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

Editorial

Downstream nations ought to embrace the new dawn!

As the Nile basin enters a watershed moment with the official entry into force of the Cooperative Framework Agreement (CFA) on 13 October 2024, the time has come for downstream countries to come on board and embrace a more collaborative and forward-thinking approach to manage the shared resources.

For too long, the utilization of the world's longest river had been viewed through a lens a monopoly. And, the so-called historical rights made the path to a collective solution bumpy and any possible outcome elusive. Downstream's outdated position has hindered progress and put the water-scarce region in increasingly precarious conditions.

If implemented properly and effectively managed, CFA offers a path to a more cooperative and sustainable future, where the common resources are shared equitably, and where all countries have a say in how the river is managed reasonably.

Egypt and Sudan have long dominated both the use and storyline around the Abay River with colonial-era treaties, which gave them exclusive rights and monopoly over the shared resource. Egypt and Sudan were essentially given over 90% of the Nile's flow under the accords they signed in 1929 and 1959, leaving the upstream countries with little access to the river even though they contributed to its flow.

Clinging on obsolete agreements and ignoring modern scenarios is no longer a sustainable and collective remedy for the region. And it is through collective initiatives like CFA a more cooperative and inclusive approach is ensured. At a time when cooperation has come to fruition in the region, Egypt and Sudan run the risk of isolating themselves.

The CFA encourages joint investments in infrastructure, sustainable water management, and development projects that benefit all parties. For example, upstream countries can develop hydropower projects that generate electricity not just for themselves but for their neighbors, downstream countries can be assured of water flows to sustain their agriculture and livelihoods.

In this regard, the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) is a prime example of why downstream nations should reconsider their opposition to the CFA. Ethiopia's construction of the GERD has the potential to bring lofty dividends to the region. It can provide affordable electricity to neighboring countries while carefully regulating water releases to ensure minimal impact on downstream flows.

The official entry of the agreement into force will bring the years of banal argument to an end and assert that cooperation is a must to usher the region into an avenue of collective development.

Downstream countries must recognize that holding onto historical agreements will not solve the challenges of the future. Joining the CFA is not about relinquishing control but about ensuring their long-term water security in an era of growing uncertainty. By coming on board, they can help shape the rules of cooperation, secure their water needs, and foster stability in the region.

The principles enshrined in the Agreement for the Nile River Basin Cooperative Framework (CFA) fix historic wrongs, ascertain equitable use and foster mutual understanding and shared responsibility, the Foreign Affairs Ministry of Ethiopia underscored.

The dedication, perseverance, and collaborative spirit displayed by state parties throughout this process would, no doubt, enhance cooperation and provide the impetus to realize the equitable and reasonable management and utilization of the shared water resource, the ministry stated in a statement posted on social media.

In sum, Egypt and Sudan must step forward and engage with their upstream neighbors in good faith, recognizing that their future prosperity depends on collective action. The Nile cannot be a source of conflict, or it can be a symbol of regional unity and shared progress. And, the time is now to act.



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Opinion

Optimism for peace, accelerated socio-economic dev't

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

In his inaugural policy speech at the joint session of the HPR and HF, the newly appointed President of Ethiopia, Taye Atsekeselassie highlighted major government achievements during the previous fiscal year and planned activities for the current fiscal year.

The President highlighted the major achievements of the previous fiscal year stating that that Ethiopia's economy is at a new turning point, highlighting the country's transition to a multi-sector economy. He noted that this shift is gradually increasing the number of citizens who benefit from economic growth. Ethiopia's economy recorded a growth rate of 8.1 % in the concluded Ethiopian fiscal year. He mentioned that the agricultural sector alone registered a growth of 6.9 % and added that some 700 million quintals of major crops were produced in the last fiscal year.

He indicated that 230 million quintals of production were achieved through harvesting in the Meher irrigation season. The President pointed out that efforts to supply wheat to the export market have also been strengthened. He added that initiatives like Ye Lemat Tirufat (Bounty of the Basket) and fruit cultivation have contributed to stabilizing inflation.

Taye stated that 3.8 billion USD in revenue was generated from the export of goods, which also managed to substitute local products worth of 2.8 billion USD. In connection with the economic revival, more than 4.2 million jobs were created in the last fiscal year, he explained. President Taye also noted that 379,000 citizens have been provided with employment opportunities abroad.

The author of this contribution wishes to enumerate some of the major areas of planned activities for the current fiscal year highlighted by the President.

Accelerating the pace of sustainable agricultural development in the context of promoting climate resilient green economy was mentioned as one of the top priority areas of the government in line with the promotion of Home Grown National Economic Policy as stated by the President.

According to the National Agricultural Investment Plan issued in 2022, agriculture accounts for 34% of GDP, 75% OF national export earnings and 73% of employment as well as 70% of raw material sources for the manufacturing sector of Ethiopia. Various policy documents were prepared for improving the agriculture sector of the country including ADLI in the early 1990s, PRSP in 2000-2001, SDPRP from 2002-2004 and PASDEP 2005-2010.

Reports from the Ministry of Agriculture show that the Ministry is focusing on enhancing the national production of ten strategic crops which include rice, wheat, maize, coffee, and sesame, soybeans, avocado, mango, onion, tomatoes. Livestock production also focuses on sheep,

goats, and fish while large-scale irrigation is being developed giving rise to summer and dry season production of wheat in clusters on which the country has now become self-sufficient and imports no wheat. In two years, Ethiopia will fully substitute the import of rice by producing enough that will also be imported.

Agriculture, mechanization, agriculture trade, research and development in agriculture for disease-resistant varieties are already being conducted. Ethiopia is already registering huge achievements in the Basket Bounty Program and Made in Ethiopia. In his speech, the president touched upon the plan to accelerate the financial reform in the current fiscal year.

The author recalls that Ethiopia has recently undertaken significant financial reforms aimed at liberalizing its economy and strengthening its financial sector.

Ethiopia has traditionally maintained a closed financial system with restrictions on foreign banks operating within the country. However, recent reforms are opening up the sector to allow foreign banks to operate in Ethiopia. This is expected to increase competition, improve efficiency, and attract foreign investment. In his speech, the President noted that the financial and monetary reforms will be given due attention during the current fiscal year.

The nation has continued to implement a floating and more flexible exchange rate system. This shift aims to address the foreign currency shortage, a major issue affecting businesses and foreign investment in Ethiopia. The reforms are expected to gradually allow the Ethiopian birr to float in a market-determined exchange rate system, reducing distortions in the economy caused by artificial currency controls.

Ethiopia is working on expanding financial services to underserved regions and populations. The government has promoted digital financial services, such as mobile banking, to improve access to financial services for the rural population. This is part of Ethiopia's broader digital transformation agenda.

Recent reforms include enhancing the regulatory and supervisory capacity of the National Bank of Ethiopia (NBE). This includes measures to improve the governance and operational efficiency of both public and private banks, ensuring the financial sector remains resilient to external shocks.

Ethiopia has been working to improve its debt management strategies as part of its financial reform agenda. The government has also initiated the privatization of key state-owned enterprises, including Ethio Telecom, which is expected to boost the economy and enhance competitiveness in critical sectors.

These reforms are aligned with the government's broader objective of moving Ethiopia towards a more market-driven economy, stimulating growth, and attracting foreign direct investment.

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

Business & Economy

Women's irreplaceable role in economic advancement

BY MENGESHA AMARE

The contribution of women to the economic, political, and social well-being of a society, peculiarly, in developing countries like ours has been dramatically devalued in spite of some transformations witnessed these days. It is only in the last fifty years that the thinking towards the role of women has shifted and practically put into effect.

Today, there is general global consensus that women empowerment is of paramount importance in making economies boost and that gender equality has a positive effect on economic growth and human development. The inverse relationship stating that economic growth has a positive effect on advancing gender equality is more controversial and understudied.

Having this concept in mind, The Ethiopian Herald had a stay with Workinesh Teshome, a gender specialist graduated from Addis Ababa University, to grasp some sorts of information regarding women's economic development.

She said, "To gain a broader picture of the role of women in economic development, as well as a more nuanced understanding of the relationship between economic growth and gender equality, it is better to situate women within the human development paradigm and explore the notion of economic empowerment. The role of women in the economic development trajectories of Ethiopia, discrimination and marginalization of women in Ethiopia, has limited both women's roles economic development and impeded their human development."

In the Ethiopian context, of course, women do not participate in high growth sectors and a majority of women, if employed, work in the agriculture sector with substantially unequal access and control over productive resources. Even girls are expected to attend less school than boys, resulting in lower literacy compared with their male counterparts. In health, life expectancy has improved substantially in Ethiopia girls have a higher life expectancy than boys at birth. Despite there are advancement, fertility rates remain astronomically high in the country, which curbs the sustainability of economic growth potential and women's empowerment.

Yes, she said if Ethiopia significantly increases economic and educational opportunities for women, while maintaining gains in healthcare, fertility rates will decrease and more sustained economic growth can occur, which will ultimately have positive gains for women's empowerment and for development of the entire nation.

"Women are key drivers of economic growth, indeed! In order to eradicate extreme poverty and build vibrant economy, women must gain access to and control of capital, land, markets, education, and leadership opportunities. Increasing gender equality and enhancing women empowerment through work opportunities are the important steps in achieving sustainable development.



Women have irreplaceable role in the economic advancement of a country

Improving women's access to decent work is not only important for economic growth but also for development and gender empowerment.

The relationship between women economic rights and economic growth needs to be well explored whether the effect of women's economic rights is different," she opined.

Despite women's increased participation in the labor market significantly contributing to past economic growth, persistent gender gaps across the nation's labor market hinder full realization of the potential gains of women's economic participation, as to her.

Responding to the question, to what extent does gender equality contribute to economic growth in Ethiopia, Workinesh said either growth strategies would need to be reformulated to be more inclusive in their impacts or redistributive measures would need to be put in place to ensure that men and women benefit more equally from the growth.

Women's empowerment implies that they have the same economic rights as men and are not discriminated against simply because they are female. Unfortunately, women are comparatively less privileged compared to men in terms of economic participation in society. Giving women economic rights can boost economic growth because it allows them to develop their potential as successful household managers without restriction. Women's economic rights can bring long-lasting benefits across multiple dimensions.

She further elucidated that not only is empowering women economically the 'right thing' to do to honor the country's commitments to human rights but it is also the 'smart thing' to do for development, economic growth and business.

The link between women empowerment and income inequality and find a strong relationship, and a strong spillover effect of women economic rights for middle-income countries where the gender structure of

employment in tradable sectors is performed by foreign investors.

Reduced gender disparities in employment and education also have a favorable impact on economic growth, which depends on labor market expansion and skill development. Domestic unpaid work mainly carried out by women is also vital to the social well-being and maintenance of the labor force. It is also noted that increasing women's contribution to household income, through working, improves the wellbeing, reduces household poverty and reduces a family's susceptibility to economic ups and downs.

As to Workinesh, the impact of gender equality on economic growth and the impact of economic growth on gender equality have to be made compatible as gender equality is an essential aspect of human dignity and social justice and is an effective means to achieve economic development goal. Yes, the economic growth has a significantly positive impact on gender, and gender inequality in education and employment may reduce growth and development.

Fertility decline, investments in children and decreased corruption are consequences of gender equality with positive externalities for growth. Thus gender equality bears instrumental relevance and international institutions and development agencies have a sound empirical basis for promoting gender-aware approaches to growth and development. However, markets and other economic institutions are themselves products of the prevailing social order, including the gender order, and can be used in ways that benefit some over others.

Genuinely speaking, as to Workinesh, improving equality between men and women is a key ingredient of the demographic transition and of the process

of socio-economic development.

Gender equality potentially affects economic growth through various channels. In the first place, potential link can be fostered as it is instrumental in reinvigorating increased quality of human capital inputs, which is reflected in the increased productivity of labor and other complementary inputs to the production process. The growth impacts of education for girls may be greater than the impact for boys. Secondly, women's employment in certain sectors or occupations needs to be widened and women may have greater incentives to save than men.

Workinesh said, "Greater gender equality under the law, including legal rights of women to own assets such as land and property, the right to move freely outside the home and to participate in various markets, and women's rights within marriage might be expected to boost economic growth by increasing women's productivity."

Since women in most cases have limited access to financial markets or other necessary complements to private investment such as property rights and infrastructure essential to the accumulation of physical and knowledge capital and participation in the growth process, this trend has to be modified to help the nation register economic growth, Workinesh added.

She also said women's economic participation promotes agricultural productivity, enterprise development at the micro, small, and medium enterprise levels, as well as enhances business management and returns on investment, and women empowerment and gender equality play key roles in driving economic progress.

Empowering women in economic development involves several aspects, such as providing access to education, opportunities for skill development, and financial resources for operating small businesses. Importantly, promoting gender equality not only improves the well-being and economic status of women but also provides broader societal benefits.

In sum, there is increasing recognition that economically empowering women is essential both to realize women's rights and to achieve broader development goals such as economic growth, poverty reduction, health, education and welfare. To this end, a broad range of organizations have committed themselves to the goal of women's economic empowerment. These organizations realize that economically empowering women is a win-win that can benefit not only women, but society more broadly.

It promotes women's ability to achieve their rights and well-being while also reducing household poverty, increasing economic growth and productivity, and increasing efficiency. True, working with women makes good business sense. When they have the right skills and opportunities, women can help businesses and markets grow. Besides, women who are economically empowered contribute more to their families, societies and national economic progress.

Art & Culture

Mischief of the Gods

By ATA

Title: Mischief of the gods

Author: Itsushi Kawase /PhD

Publisher Awai Books

Part II

The ink is used to draw patterns on the forehead, neck, chin, and other areas. A razor-sharp needle pierces the skin, allowing the ink to seep in."

Kawase recounts China's own story of enduring the pain of tattooing. She explained that traditional Ethiopian liquor, Araqe, was used as an anesthetic to numb her skin during the process. From her beginnings as a young egg seller, China has evolved into an illegal immigrant house maid in the Arab world and finally a cafe owner in the same street where she was selling eggs as a little girl. The common Amharic proverb, Qes Be Qes Enqulal Be egru yihedal meaning little by little an egg becomes a chick and walks free is a good example for china's transformation as noted by Kawase in the story. The author has narrated the life and fate of most urban girls through China's story.

"She said Riyadh Saudi Arabia is really bad. She become a maid of a merchant family there. Women from numerous locations, Indoniosia philippenes, Bangladesh and Ethiopia go to Riyadh to work Employer violence against these women, unpaid wages, and various problems routinely occur... The head of the house assaulted her and even sexually harassed her. The Master's wife sensed that her husband was turning his attention to China become jealous and began to treat her harshly With the support of her friends from the streets she managed to escape with her life, but empty handed.

Growing up in the street as a vendor, dropping out of school and maybe doing weird business with paying men and then going to the Middle East to work as a maid and coming back to Ethiopia to open a small business is the routine observed by most country girls.

Getting killed, getting raped, losing a mind, disappearing forever, etc is something that is common as an African illegal immigrant who chose the journey through the borders and the merciless seas. Kawase has captured all sufferings and horrible, tragic ends in his memoir entitled Journey.

"Hey, stop it. Stop it, stop it. This can only end badly.... From Gondar you cross Sudan and Libya and cross the ocean to Europe, that sea is not Lake Tana which can be seen from the top of Wanza in your village.... it's a gigantic thing the likes of which you have never seen before"

Kawase writes this piece in a manner one talks/gives advice to his little brother. The story captures everything from the journey from Ethiopia to Sudan Libya and the merciless sea. The Dellalas/ intermediaries which are facilitating the

journey are extremely inhuman, they are not a joke. They are demons. They don't care as long as they get their money. They treat you bad they rape you and slash your thighs with a knife if you are not paying for the journey which might even leave you to be a dinner to the fish. Once you board that usually dilapidated, crammed boat you might get thrown out of the boat in the middle of the journey if you are heavier in weight than other travellers. The whole story narrated under the "journey" is written with a strong message of PLEASE DON'T GO!!

The memoir not only highlights the physical risks but also delves into the psychological and emotional toll of such an arduous journey. The narrative reveals the extreme exploitation and abuse faced by migrants, illustrating how the quest for a better life can quickly turn into a nightmare. Through his compelling storytelling, Kawase implores readers to understand the grim reality of these migrations and to reconsider the perilous path many are tempted to take.

By sharing these stories of suffering and loss, Journey serves as a cautionary tale, urging potential migrants to weigh the risks carefully and seek safer alternatives. It underscores the urgent need for systemic change to address the root causes of migration and to provide better support and opportunities for those who are vulnerable to such extreme measures.

"Song Pleading with the Gods" brings Tigabu's and Yitayal's life as an Azmari, their hopes, wishes and aspirations. Kawase has narrated the story very cleverly and with a little sense of expertise.

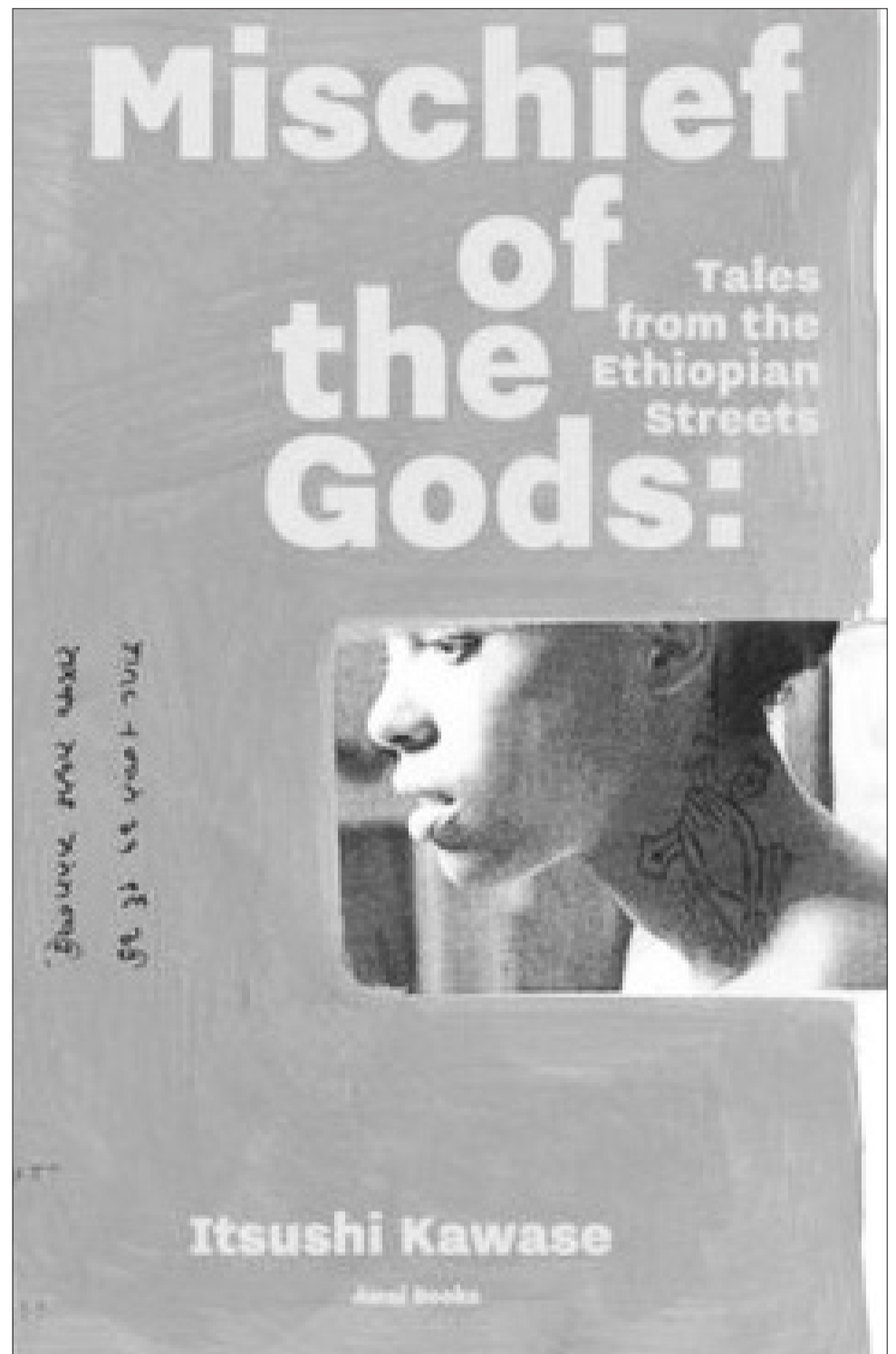
"Adana, your humorous stories are loved. There are no bees in your stomach, but your mouth is overflowing with honey" Tigabu is bringing all kinds of praises to get a tip from his clients. The above mentioned praise is targeted at praising Adana in front of his peers as he is a humorous person comparing his humors as good as a honey.

"Let's make Adana laugh, so we can count among his 30 teeth the gold ones"

This is another praise talking about how Adana is a wealthy person, as gold teeth was/is considered a symbol of affluence.

"Chaplin of the Highlands" is another story Kawase wrote with a clear, detailed and unforgettable depiction of the life of Lalibeloch through his main character Tilahun. Legend has it that if Lalibela/hamina ceases to stop singing, praising and begging for money, they will be a leper and in fear of contracting leprosy they continue to strol door to door and praise, sing and beg. Lalibeloch are in some instances mocked by peers as their source of income is coming from begging. Thus the main character in the story, Tilahun disguises as a country boy when he does his morning routines.

"When Tilahun is active in his practice, he covers his whole body with a thick cloth, loosely wraps the thick cloth around his head and walks with a wooden



cane...however, around noon, Tilahun returns to the cheap hotel where he stays, changes, into jeans and a T shirt, and goes back to being a fashionable young man walking around Piazza... Of course, no one knows that this is the singer who has been roaming the streets until just a little while ago.

Kawase invokes a flashback memory that resonates closely with the story of Lalibeloch and Tilahun. It centers around Gary, a member of the indigenous Dane-Zaa people of British Columbia. Just as Lalibeloch are compelled to sing at dawn, Gary rises early each morning to perform his tribe's ritual drumming and chanting, which Kawase finds incomprehensible.

The stories such as "Song Pleading with God," "A Symphony," "The Promised Land," "Eternity," "Mischief of the Gods," "Qolo Temari," "A Promise to Yohanis," "Reacquainted," "Journey," "Elder Brother's Way," "The Crucifix," and "The Ethiopia Hotel" narrate experiences and interactions of the writer that would be held close to the heart. This book review does not delve into each story collected in "Mischief of The Gods"; rather, it provides a bird's-eye view of

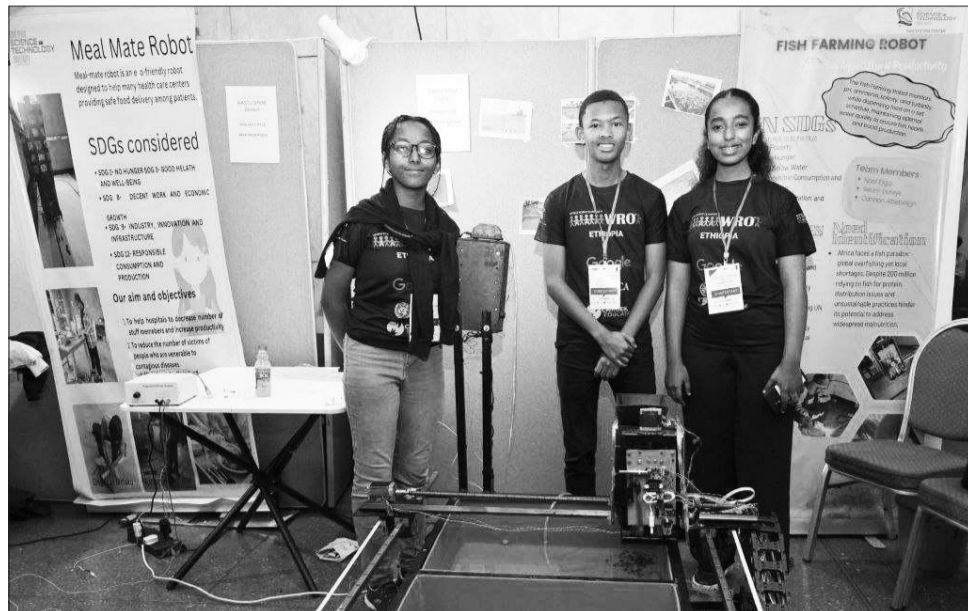
some highlights. I encourage everyone to explore Kawase's lamentations through his characters.

Numerous tourists, historians, scholars, explorers which are both admirers and critics of Abyssinia have penned their memoirs in various languages to share their impressions. If we were to evaluate "Abyssinia: The Powder Barrel" by Prochazka as one of the poorest representations of our people, "Mischief of the Gods" stands as one of the finest portrayals of Ethiopians. Kawase writes with a profound sense of belonging to the land, its people, and the spirit of Ethiopia.

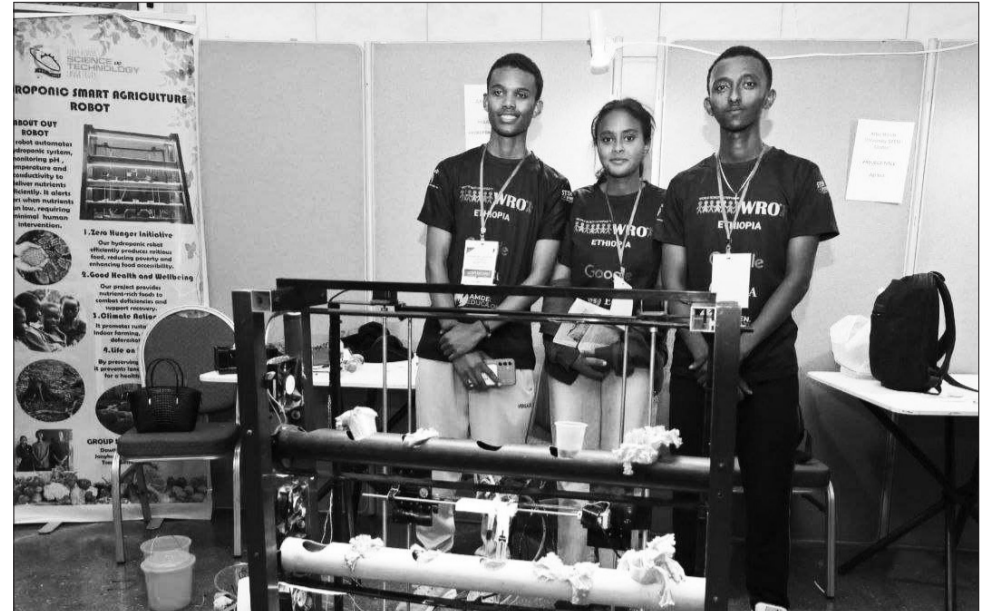
Itsushi Kawase is an Anthropologist, film maker and poet born in Gifu Japan. He has conducted research on Ethiopia's hereditary singer-poets since 2001. He is currently an associate professor at Japan's National Museum of Ethnology and the graduate University of Advanced Studies. He has won numerous awards for his writing and films, most recently the 2022 Umesao Tadao Literary Prize.

On Sun, Oct 6, 2024 at 10:51 PM Alemayehu Alemayehu <7alemayehu@gmail.com> wrote:

Science & Technology



(Fish Farming Robot, a project designed and developed by AASTU STEM Center trained three youths, which ranked third at the National Robotics Competition)



(Hydroponic Smart Agricultural Robot project, developed by a group of three AASTU STEM Center trained high school students and presented at the National Robotics Competition)

AASTU STEM Center, Kids Science Experiment program:

Trajectories to nurture youth talents in STEM education

BY DARGIE KAHSAY

Addis Ababa Science and Technology University (AASTU) was established in 2011 to be a leading science and technology education and research institution. The institution was established to promote innovation, research, and driving industrial developments and its programs mainly focus on engineering, applied sciences, technology, and Information Communication technology (ICT) fields. Through these fields, the university is empowering science and technology education and research institution specialists to support the country's scientific and technological advancements.

Since its establishment, the university has graduated educated professionals in the engineering sector. In so doing it has contributed their share to the country's skilled human resource development.

Parallel to the formal task of offering formal education for higher education students, AASTU jointly with STEM Power Ethiopia, established the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Center in 2016. Since its establishment, The STEM Center has provided training for talented high school students, from grade 9-12. By receiving young and talented students from different schools found in Akaki Kality sub-city, the center provides practical training for young students in science and technology fields, including robotics, electronics, embedded systems and related courses.

Four teams of AASTU STEM-trained competition were organized at Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) hall two weeks ago. Fish Farming Robot, Braille Bot, Hydroponic Smart Agriculture Robot and Meal Mate Robot were the projects presented by AASTU STEM Center trained youths during the competition where the Fish Farming Robot project ranked third at the national competition. The Fish Farming Robot was designed targeting ensuring food security and environmental conservation and wise use of limited resources.

Approached by The Ethiopian Herald, AASTU STEM Center Coordinator Yalemseged Morede said that the center is offering practical training for talented students from elementary to preparatory level. The STEM Center of AASTU has also a Science Museum, according to Yalemseged. The STEM Center provides training courses in chemistry, biology, math, physics, and practical training like robotics, electronics and embedded systems.

According to Yalemseged, the training provided by the STEM Center are practically lab-based trainings. The training provided for one year for the selected students and the center of the university has the capacity of accepting 300 students, the coordinator reiterated. The training has three phases; Yalemseged stated that the first training phase is provided for two months. After two months of extensive training, an exam is prepared and those who passed the exam will join level 2 of the training.

In level 2, the trainees take four courses, electronics, embedded systems, programming and solid work like CAD (Computer Aided Design) software. The programming training was designed to help trainees to develop skills in developing robots and other applications. The solid-work CAD (Computer Aided Design) software training is designed to develop the student's skills in efficient design. After taking all these four courses properly, in two months; the trainees take an exam where the successful trainees join the third phase of the STEM training, according to Yalemseged.

Level 3 of the training is the project level in which the trainees undertake engineering (STEM) projects. At this level, there are two phases, the coordinator stated. During the first two months of training in level 3 the trainees join the project-A team. In project-A of level 3, the trainees takes practical training on robotics and related courses and at the same time, they also undertake a mini-project. At this level, the trainees are expected to design and develop a STEM project in team which is a reflection of the previous classes they took in level-1 and level 2. It helps the trainees

to practically apply the previous classes by developing a project.

At Project A in level 3, the students are expected to develop soft and hard skills as they undertake practical STEM projects with their designs and ideas. They join the workshop and use different materials to undertake the task. At this level, in addition to developing practical machine operating skills, the students are expected to develop their ideas, develop designs, and start cutting and fixing materials using different machine-related materials. In addition to machine-related practical activities, the students develop skills in electronics. This level encourages the trainees to develop their skills by designing, fixing, and producing their projects with continuous follow-up from their trainers.

"This stage is the stage where the trainees develop practical STEM subjects by translating the ideas they got into practical projects. They are expected to practice designing and producing their own STEM project," Yalemseged noted. Through this way, the students develop their theoretical and practical skills in STEM education. According to the coordinator, the project task takes two months and after two months, the trainees present the projects they developed to the STEM Center. Project competition is prepared after the students complete the two-month projects. And the best project is awarded by the center, as to the coordinator.

In level 3, those who completed the project task in Project-A level join project-B level, which is an advanced project team, according to the AASTU STEM Center Coordinator. "The robotics project presented here at the National Robotics Competition representing AASTU STEM Center are products of the students who completed the above phases properly," Yalemseged noted adding that the students graduate after a year after developing practical projects. In addition to the formal task in research and higher education services, with its STEM Center, AASTU is cultivating future scientists, researchers, innovators, and other professionals by nurturing the talents of the youth as early

as possible.

In addition to the STEM Center, which provides training mainly for high school and preparatory students, ASSTU has also established Kids Science Experiment Program in 2024, Yalemseged said. The Kids Science Experiment Program, according to him, focuses on physics, chemistry and related training to grade seven and grade eight students. The STEM Center training mostly focuses on high school and preparatory students while the Kids Science Experiment focuses on middle school students targeting nurturing the talents of the kids in STEM as early as possible.

"The Kids Science Experiment program was started in summer 2024, during the break season. The first training program was provided for middle school students during the past two months of the summer season. It was successful," he stated. The program will continue and increase by developing its accepting capacity and by modifying the program. "By studying the curriculum and the courses to make it suitable for the kids, the program will continue to nurture the talents of kids in STEM education," Yalemseged noted.

AASTU also has a value-added lab center. At the lab, the trainees get training in manufacturing soap and detergents, paper manufacturing practices, and other related practical pieces of training. Yalemseged stated that AASTU's STEM Center has the capacity to accept 300 students in one round of training, which is a year-long training. During the academic time, the training is given during weekend days, and during the break time, the training is provided from Monday to Friday.

The efforts being undertaken by AASTU in nurturing and cultivating the talents of the youth parallel to its formal task in the teaching-learning process is contributing its share in promoting the next generation of scientists, technology professionals, and innovators. Such institutional efforts should be promoted and replicated in other higher education institutions and other research centers.

Society

Ensuring safe, Regular migration

BY MENGISTEAB TESHOME

Migration has historically served as a powerful catalyst for development, driving economic growth, fostering innovation, and contributing to the formation of modern states. Across continents, the movement of people has facilitated the exchange of ideas, skills, and resources, ultimately enriching societies and economies.

In Africa, migration holds immense potential to transform communities and enhance regional integration. However, to fully harness these benefits, it is crucial to confront and address the barriers that impede positive migration outcomes. Ensuring safe, orderly, and regular migration is essential for unlocking the transformative power of migration, enabling individuals to contribute to their home countries and host nations alike. By implementing comprehensive policies and frameworks, Africa can create an environment where migration becomes a force for good, fostering sustainable development and enhancing the well-being of its people.

The Second Regional Review of Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in Africa was observed on October 8-10 here in Addis Ababa. On the occasion stakeholders that have direct or indirect role engaged in migration were gathered to share experience regarding handling migration.

In his opening remark Claver Gatete, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of ECA, said that migration has historically been a catalyst for development fueling economic growth, advancing innovation and building modern states. However, for Africa to fully realize its benefits, we must actively address the barriers impeding its positive impact.

Africa's migration landscape is indeed complex, shaped by diverse factors, including financial constraints and the climate crisis – challenges that, in many cases, are not of the continent's making. Yet, these challenges are straining national budgets, crowding out resources for essential expenditures, and exacerbating the difficulties of responding effectively.

“The consequences are clear: they include rising poverty levels, unemployment and limited social protection measures which are placing significant pressures on African countries, and intensifying the push factors that lead to migration.”

While intra-African migration exceeds outward migration, the steady increase in Africans migrating to Europe, North America, and the Gulf is quite significant. Between 2010 and 2020, African emigration surged from 20.3 million to 35.5 million, representing 14.5 percent of global migration.

“With over 20 percent of Africa's population



Minister of Justice and Head of the National Partnership Coalition on Migration Gedeon Themotwos, (PhD) and Claver Gatete UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of ECA



Since Africa is a hub for dynamic and complex human mobility characterized by mixed and irregular migration, the GCM offers an important opportunity for member states to address all aspects of their migration governance in a comprehensive manner

between the ages of 15 - 24, and youth unemployment at 60 percent, the continent faces significant gaps in opportunities for young people. However, we must also acknowledge the potential within Africa to develop home-grown solutions that can contribute to job creation, economic growth and innovation. During our recent gathering at the United Nations, we adopted the Pact of the Future, a bold initiative aimed at unlocking vast opportunities for young people, including those related to migration.”

According to him, the absence of recognition significantly hampers labor mobility and productivity. It is essential that African professionals – whether doctors, engineers, or educators – can seamlessly apply their expertise across the continent, free from unnecessary bureaucratic constraints. This will unlock the full potential of our workforce and advance deeper regional integration.

He also indicated that social security systems across Africa must be reformed to allow the portability of benefits, so that migrants do not lose access to benefits such as pensions and healthcare upon crossing borders. Enabling migrants to carry their social protections with them is not just vital for their welfare but also critical in recognizing their contributions to both their host and home countries.

Accelerating the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) that presents a unique opportunity to address continent's unemployment and climate resilience policies were also forwarded as an option.

According to him, engagement and data-driven policymaking will be essential for effective migration management. Comprehensive migration data must be integrated into national censuses, and cross-border collaboration will be critical for harmonizing data collection and reporting.

Minister of Justice and Head of the National

Partnership Coalition on Migration Gedeon Themotwos, (PhD.) for his part noted that the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) was adopted by the UN in 2018, among other things, to promote global standards and practices for global migration governance. The compact underscores the rights and well-being of migrants and their communities in the country of origin, their transit, and host territory. Most importantly, it highlights the role of all stakeholders involved in implementing the compact. With the adoption of this first global document on migration, member states commit to promoting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Since Africa is a hub for dynamic and complex human mobility characterized by mixed and irregular migration, the GCM offers an important opportunity for member states to address all aspects of their migration governance in a comprehensive manner.

Ethiopia, as a source, transit and destination country for migrants, played a key role in the GCM process from its inception throughout its development and adoption. Ethiopia formally launched the implementation of GCM in 2019. In the same year, the Government of Ethiopia (GoE) identified priorities from the 23 objectives of the GCM and selected 10 priority objectives in line with its national priorities to accelerate progress in the implementation of the Compact. This was followed up with actual implementation through mainstreaming the priorities in to national policies and programs in conjunction with the SDGs.

In 2020 Ethiopia became the first Champion Country of the GMC in the Horn of African region. Ethiopia has also participated in various Regional and Global Review Platforms of the GCM. These platforms have enabled Ethiopia to exchange insights, lessons learned and best practices with other countries that are part of this framework. The platforms also promoting effective implementation follow up and review mechanisms. To this end, Ethiopia produced its first National Voluntary Report in 2020.

With the mainstreaming of the identified priorities of the GCM, Ethiopia has taken significant steps in its implementation and achieved notable progresses in all aspects of migration governance. The government is taking key measures in terms of strengthening policy, legal and institutional frameworks for the implementation of the compact. In particular, the GoE has shown its strong commitment, among other things, through the statutory establishment of a whole of government and society approach platform led by deputy prime minister.

Building up on what has been done so far, the GoE intends to revisit and redefine its priority objectives taking into account contemporary challenges and migration realities, Gedeon noted.

Festivals, conferences...

contributed towards strengthening the unity of the people and promotes the national unity.

On the other hand, the country is preparing to host several international and continental conferences in October.

What is more, the World without Hunger Conference will be held from 5 to 7 November, 2024 by participating numerous sector actors and pertinent stakeholders across the world.

The World without Hunger Conference will be held on November 5-7, 2024 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, co-organized by UNIDO, the African Union Commission (AUC), and the Government of Ethiopia, with technical assistance of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

On this conference, more than 1,500 guests from different countries of the world are expected to participate, she noted.

At the conference, Ethiopia will share its experience in food self-sufficiency in the past six years, especially in summer wheat, cooperative farming and Green Legacy Initiative.

The first African Defense Ministers' Conference, focused on regional peace and security issues, was held at the Adwa Memorial Museum in Addis Ababa.

In addition, the Executive Committee of the Confederation of African Football (CAF) has announced that the upcoming CAF General Assembly to be held in Addis Ababa. The conference is of great significance in

connection with Ethiopia's plans to host the next African Cup of Nations.

Meanwhile, the Ethiopian Immigration and Citizenship Service has reported that in the last three months, 259,705 visitors were granted visas to enter Ethiopia.

In a performance report issued today, Director General Selamawit Dawit detailed the achievements of the third quarter of the 2017 Ethiopian fiscal year.

During this period, the Service successfully issued entry visas for a variety of purposes, facilitating the movement of over 1.1 million travelers into and out of Ethiopia via both air and land routes.

This number represents a substantial increase compared to the same timeframe last year, highlighting a promising trend in the influx of visitors to Ethiopia.

Selamawit attributed the rise primarily to the increasing number of travelers arriving in Addis Ababa.

"We have issued 259,705 visas over the past three months," Selamawit stated, emphasizing that this marks a notable growth from the previous year's figures. The data indicates a continual rise in the number of travelers to Addis Ababa, with 559,848 passengers arriving through Bole International Airport and 581,704 travelers departing during the same period.

In total, the Service processed over 1.1 million passengers in just three months. Additionally, 478,000 passport booklets were imported during this time, with

367,000 distributed to citizens.

The online passport registration system is now efficiently processing more than 7,000 applications daily, while the e-Visa service continues to operate smoothly.

The report also announced that starting in the upcoming January, e-passport services will officially commence, with all necessary preparations already completed.

"We have initiated the trial phase for e-passports, and by January, we aim for a full launch of the service, marking a significant milestone in enhancing the passport issuance process," said the Director General.

She also addressed ongoing efforts to tackle recurring service delivery challenges. A series of reforms and improvements have been implemented to enhance service quality, including the restructuring of the immigration system and revisions to immigration laws aimed at introducing significant changes.

Furthermore, the Service revealed that passports for citizens aged 25 and older will soon have a validity period of 10 years, in accordance with the organization's new operational guidelines.

"The passport service we provide to individuals over the age of 25 will have a validity period of 10 years. This will reduce the number of people who need to renew their passports simply because their time has expired without much use. It will also reduce the associated costs, which is why we believe it will solve many issues."

Ethiopia will share its experience in food self-sufficiency in the past six years, especially in summer wheat, cooperative farming and Green Legacy Initiative.



This is *Ethiopia*

Festivals, conferences boosting tourists' inflow

BY TEWODROS KASSA

Festival tourism is a niche segment of the travel industry that involves traveling to various destinations to experience cultural, musical, religious, or other types of festivals, according to the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO). This form of tourism has gained popularity in recent years as more travelers seek unique and authentic experiences that go beyond traditional sightseeing.

Accordingly, there are numerous types of festivals that attract festival tourists from around the world. Some of the most popular festival categories include; cultural festivals, music festivals, religious festivals, food and drink festivals, as well as art and film festivals.

Thus, festival tourism offers a unique and enriching travel experience for those seeking to explore the cultural, artistic, and culinary traditions of different destinations. By participating in festivals around the world, travelers can gain a deeper appreciation for the diversity of human expression and



create lasting memories that will stay with them for a lifetime.

Recently, the Government Communication Service announced that religious and cultural festivals celebrated across the country since the middle of last August have created a great potential for the growing tourists inflow to the country.

Accordingly, preparations are underway to

host several international and continental conferences in this month.

Minister of State for Government Communication Service Selamawit Kassa recalled that since the middle of last August, various religious and cultural festivals have been celebrated throughout the country.

She also mentioned that the festivals have created new insights to promote the tourism

sector and witnessed the country's great tourism potentials.

She said that the festivals not only promote the potential cultural and religious values of a country, but also create a great potential to introduce the community's lifestyle to the international community in a different way.

She also stated that the festivals significantly

See Festivals, conferences ... page 19