



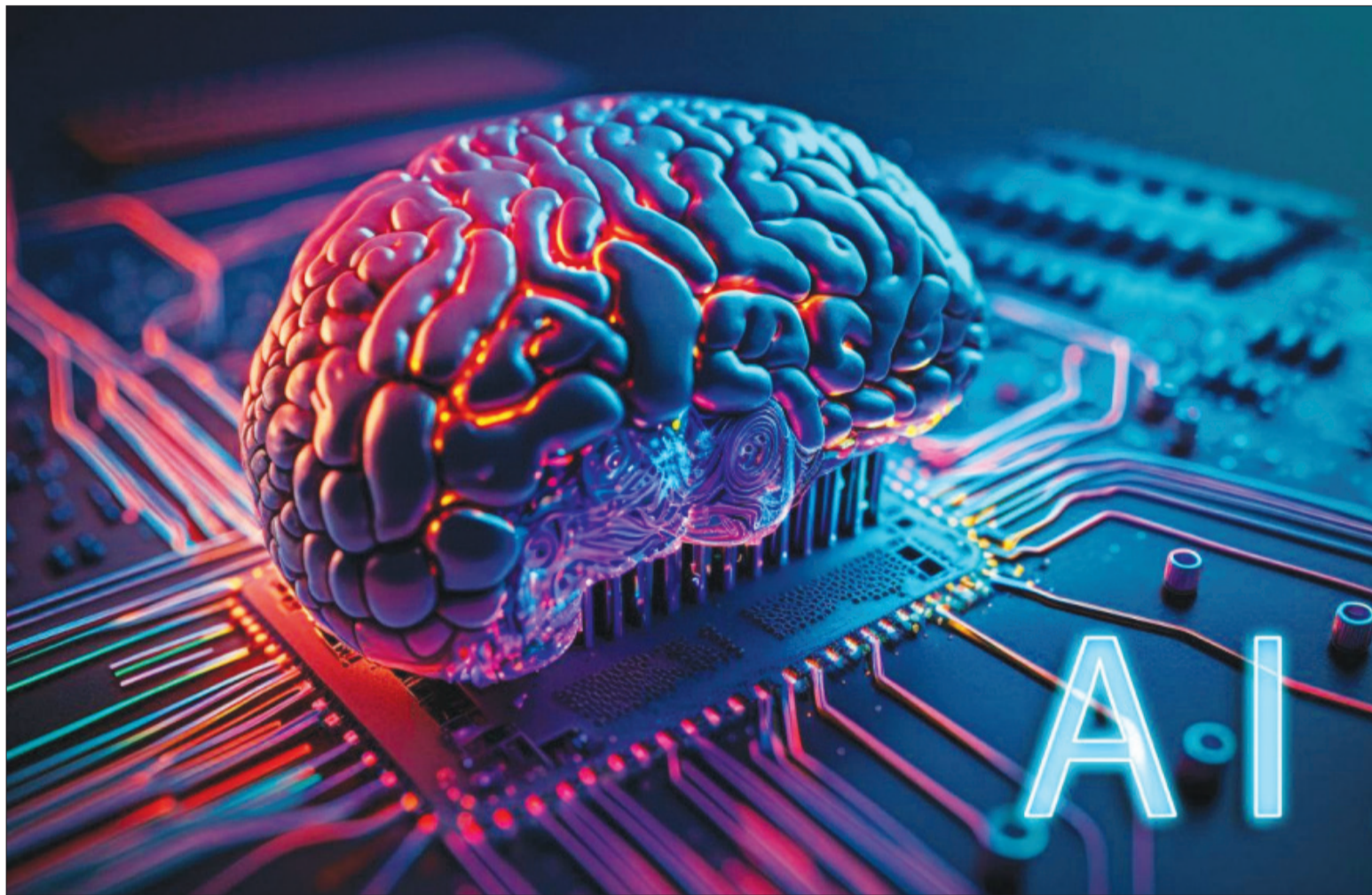
The Ethiopian Herald

Vol. LXXXI No 026 10 October 2024 - Meskerem 30, 2017 **Thursday** Price Birr 10.00

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Denmark renews commitment to supporting Ethiopia's climate resilience

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA-Denmark has reaffirmed its commitment to supporting Ethiopia's climate resilience efforts at the "Building Resilience to Climate Change in Ethiopia" conference held on Tuesday.

Danish Ambassador SuneKrogstrup emphasized that since 2012, Denmark has played a crucial role in advancing Ethiopia's climate-resilient green economy, focusing

See Denmark renews... Page 3

Time for Africa to wrestle with AI dilemma

BY YESUF ENDRIS

As the global competition for Artificial Intelligence (AI) accelerates, African nations are facing an urgent call to keep pace escaping from the risk.

During the third Pan-African Conference on Artificial Intelligence, researchers

cautioned that the continent's technological gaps could widen unless decisive action is taken.

This warning is particularly critical for African countries like Ethiopia where technological infrastructure is limited.

While the African Union (AU) has developed

a Continental Artificial Intelligence Strategy, many experts who presented their perspectives on the Conference argued that the current investment in AI is insufficient to bridge these gaps.

AI is already revolutionizing industries globally, and Africa cannot afford to be left behind.

See Time for Africa... Page 3



Photo :Dagne Abera

Heejung Kim

From South Korea to Ethiopia: A Woman's journey of unity

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

Heejung Kim, affectionately known by her Amharic name Nigist, has dedicated the past 13 years to her life in Ethiopia,

See From South Korea ... Page 3

Ethiopia making strides in migration governance

• Commissions whole of government, society approach

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA – Ethiopia has achieved notable progress in areas of migration governance through streamlined national policies, legal and institutional frameworks, the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) said.

MoJ Minister Gedion Timothwos (PhD) made the above remarks yesterday at the intergovernmental conference convened by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

The minister noted that the government has also identified priorities from the 23 objectives of the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) and selected 10 priority objectives in line with its national priorities

See Ethiopia making strides ... Page 3



Photo :Dagne Abera



HFHE benefits over 170,000 vulnerable families

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA – Habitat for Humanity Ethiopia (HFHE) has supported over 170,000 families (850, 000 individuals) through housing, water and sanitation since its inception.

In a press release sent to *The Ethiopian Herald* in connection with this year's World Habitat Day on Monday, HFHE stated that over 170,000 families have been benefited in housing, water, and sanitation during the past over three decades.

HFHE's African Union Representative and National Director Yitna Tekalegn said that the day reminds the world that everyone has the power and the responsibility to shape the future of towns and cities.

"This year, the global observance of World Habitat Day held in Queretaro, Mexico, under the theme : "Engaging Youth to Create a Better Urban Future," focusing on empowering the next generation to shape the cities and communities they live in," he added.

He also noted that the housing crises in Ethiopia has been exacerbated by fast pace of urbanization, internal conflict and slow response to the ever-growing demand. Currently, many young people live in inadequate conditions that adversely affect their health and overall well-being. To address such challenges, HFHE committed to contributing to the national and global efforts being made to mitigate challenges related to housing, water and sanitation.

"Addressing these intertwined challenges inclusively unemployment rate requires a holistic approach that combines housing solutions with job training and educational opportunities. HFHE has reached out to youth, providing vocational training to help them create their own means of livelihood," Yitna underlined.

HFHE called up on government, nongovernment organizations, and other relevant bodies to take collaborative action that help narrow the significant gap in adequate and affordable housing.

It is to be recalled that HFHE is a branch of habitat for humanity international (HFHI) that has been implementing various projects since 1993. Currently, it is operating under the auspices of Africa Habitat for Humanity International.

Ministry to showcase sustainable transport at Ethio-Green Mobility 2024

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA-The Ministry of Transport and Logistics (MoTL) has announced plans to host the Ethio-Green Mobility 2024 international exhibition and symposium in November.

This event aims to showcase advancements in sustainable transport solutions and promote discussions on climate resilience within the transportation sector.

At the opening launch program held this Tuesday, MoTL Minister Alemu Sime (PhD) emphasized the government's commitment to building a climate-resilient economy since the onset of reforms. He noted that under the ten-year prospective development plan, the homegrown economy agenda aims to enhance transport and logistics as key drivers for competitiveness, growth, and shared prosperity.

During the opening launch program held this Tuesday, MoTL Minister Alemu Sime (PhD) underscored the government's commitment to building a climate-resilient economy since the onset of reforms. He noted that, under the ten-year prospective development plan, the homegrown economy agenda seeks to enhance transport and logistics as key drivers



Alemu Sime (PhD)

for competitiveness, growth, and shared prosperity.

The Minister emphasized the nation's focus on creating a climate-resilient and sustainable transport system, which includes infrastructure development, urban transport solutions, and green technologies. "Transport and logistics are critical drivers of economic growth, development, and social inclusion," he stated.

The exhibition and symposium are scheduled to commence on November 22nd and conclude on November 30th, 2024. More than 700 participants are expected to attend, with

projections indicating the event will create over 10 million direct market opportunities.

"By 2030, we envision providing accessible, reliable, affordable, and sustainable transport services for Ethiopia. Recent corridor developments in metropolitan areas and major state towns are essential steps toward achieving safe and sustainable transport," he added.

The Minister also discussed ongoing efforts to expand the use of electric vehicles, highlighting the importance of renewable energy in reducing gas emissions. "These initiatives align with our national objectives for transport and logistics," he noted.

In addition to the main symposium, a sideline event will feature discussions among African officials on transport and logistics during the PIDA (Program for Infrastructure Development in Africa) week. The symposium is expected to attract manufacturing companies, researchers, and international institutions focused on climate change.

The pre-event launch program was attended by government officials, development partners, investors, and other stakeholders, underscoring the significance of Ethio-Green Mobility 2024 in advancing sustainable transport initiatives in Ethiopia.



Photo: Hadush Abreha

CRRSA, Nat'l ID commence mass Fayda registration today

• Work to build developed civil system

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA – Addis Ababa Civil Registration and Residency Service Agency (CRRSA) and National ID Program Office (Fayda) jointly announced that they would begin to implement Fayda ID registration starting from today.

Briefing journalists yesterday, CRRSA's Director General Yonas Alemayehu said that the two bodies listed above starts cooperative work to carry out the implementation of National ID (Fayda) in 19 districts, all sub cities, and the head office from Monday to Saturday across the metropolitan.

As to Yonas, Fayda is among a forwarding step to realize a digital infrastructure, which is creating enabled environment

for digital transformation 2025. The Fayda registration would play significant role in making strong connection among institutes, city to city, towns to states, and reduce bureaucratic red tape.

He added that the main aims of Fayda registration is providing significant benefit for residents by taking relevant information thereby fighting against illegal acts. Besides, bringing system integration across various sectors is another significant outcome to provide efficient service for residences apart from ensuring smart city operation.

He further stated that CRRSA and Fayda are organized taskforce and finalized preliminary activities so as to facilitate the registration process. However,

combined efforts should be exerted to realize meaningful outcome from Fayda registration. Particularly, awareness creation among the residences would encourage to create full image about the significance of Fayda.

National ID Program Executive General, Yodahe Zemikael on his part mentioned that the campaign, which is starting today, will last for the next one month. In this campaign, National ID set to register some 1,000,000 residences in Addis.

"The Fayda registration campaign would bring a paramount role in signifying the residences' needs and ensuring the legal document system through using legal identity management approach," he added.

Denmark renews...

on initiatives designed to adapt to and mitigate climate impacts.

Ambassador Krogstrup highlighted Denmark's involvement in key programs that promote the sustainability of safety net initiatives, deliver humanitarian aid, and enhance climate adaptation strategies. A significant aspect of their support is the promotion of plant-smart agriculture, aimed at modernizing farming practices by reducing reliance on traditional methods, minimizing post-harvest losses, and increasing mechanization. This initiative has successfully improved wheat productivity, helping Ethiopia meet its national demand for this essential crop.

Ethiopia, located in the Horn of Africa,

faces significant climate challenges, including severe droughts, floods, and land degradation, which threaten food security for over 78% of its population that relies on agriculture. In response, the Ethiopian government has prioritized climate resilience as a cornerstone of its development strategy, actively working to identify and address climate-related hazards.

Denmark has partnered with Ethiopia on research initiatives aimed at developing effective strategies to mitigate climate change impacts. Ambassador Krogstrup stressed the urgency of the situation, noting that climate change poses significant risks, leading to increased humanitarian needs, job scarcity, and disruptions

in food production. Additionally, the country has faced landslides exacerbated by climate conditions, complicating its challenges further.

Danish bilateral cooperation primarily focuses on modernizing the agricultural sector by supporting smallholder farmers. This initiative aims to enhance food security and resilience, particularly for displaced populations and host communities, while fostering climate-resilient livelihoods in forested areas. Furthermore, Denmark remains committed to strengthening governance and promoting human rights in Ethiopia, ensuring a holistic approach to development in the face of ongoing climate challenges.

From South Korea...

a country often referred to as the "second Jerusalem." Through her work with the charity association HaPo Korea, she passionately promotes Ethiopia's rich cultural heritage and vibrant festivals, including *Meskel* and *Irreechaa*, which celebrate unity, faith, and community.

In a recent interview with *The Ethiopian Herald*, Kim shared her experiences participating in Ethiopian public holidays, stating, "Ethiopian public holidays are wonderful celebrations." She appreciates the communal spirit these events foster, noting the similarities to traditional celebrations in Korean culture, which also emphasize unity and joy. This cultural connection fuels her desire to bridge gaps between the two nations.

Kim believes Ethiopia plays a crucial role in promoting world peace and encourages her friends in Korea and beyond to immerse themselves in Ethiopian culture. "I am capturing Ethiopian culture and festivals through my camera to share with the Korean people," she emphasized, underscoring her mission to tell stories that highlight the beauty of Ethiopia's traditions and community spirit.

Reflecting on the historical ties between the two nations, Kim highlighted Ethiopia's support during the Korean War, when Ethiopian troops came to aid South Korea. This act of solidarity established a strong diplomatic bond that continues to flourish today, paving the way for mutual respect and cooperation.

Kim is particularly concerned about educational standards in Ethiopia, especially in government schools. She noted that South Korean citizens are actively contributing to various sectors in Ethiopia, including education. Her charity organization focuses on enhancing elementary education in the Sululta area, aiming to provide better opportunities for local children. She believes that education is key to fostering long-term development and mutual understanding between cultures.

Looking ahead, Kim aspires to boost Ethiopian tourism, particularly in September when numerous festivals take place. She invites global travelers to experience the country's unique cultural celebrations, emphasizing Ethiopia's potential as a destination rich in history, culture, and warmth. By showcasing Ethiopia's diverse heritage, she hopes to foster greater understanding and appreciation on the world stage.

Through her journey, Kim exemplifies the power of cultural exchange and the importance of unity in an increasingly interconnected world.

Ethiopia making strides...

to accelerate implementation progress thereby achieving notable progress in all aspects of migration governance.

With the adoption of this first global document on migration, member states committed to promoting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, He remarked that the compact highlights the rights and well-being of migrants and promotes global standards and practices for global migration governance.

The GCM offers an important opportunity for member states to address all aspects of their migration governance comprehensively as Africa is a hub for dynamic and complex human mobility characterized by mixed and irregular migration, the minister noted.

Gedion said: "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 through mainstreaming the priorities into national policies and programs in conjunction with the SDGs."

Moreover, he indicated that the country became the first Champion Country of the GMC in 2020 in the Horn of African region.

For her part, AU Commission, Commissioner for Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development Ambassador Minata Samate stated that the issue of migration seeks special considerations of the AU, member states and regional economic communities as it has been exacerbating causing the increasing violation of migrants.

She stressed that the GCM is important to strengthen migration at all levels to meet the aspirations of Agenda 2063, decent jobs and the wellbeing of African fellows.

Calling for international actors to fight the migration violations, she underscored that, "Migration is an opportunity for the continent and transit countries and destination countries to benefit."

She reiterated that the AU stands firm to support the member states, regional economic communities to further consolidate with the issues.

It is also stated that it is impossible to have free trade without free citizens.

International Organization for Migration and Coordinator of the UN Network on Migration Director General Amy Pope highlighted that when migration becomes part of the national strategy and built in every angle of engagement, the powerful catalyst for change and development.

"Without the movement of people, we could not have the tremendous goals of development of our civilization, the existing prosperity and various accomplishments across the world."

Reaffirming commitments to back the implementations of the GCM in financial, technical and resources to integrate migration managements and maximizing the tremendous human potential in the continent to accelerate the socioeconomic development, the DG also said that strengthening regular migration frameworks and bilateral agreements would help safeguard migrant's rights.

Time for Africa to wrestle...

According to Meta's FAIR AI researcher Jean Maillar, natural language processing (NLP) technologies are simplifying communication across linguistic divides, demonstrating how AI can solve practical challenges in Africa.

He stressed the importance of investing in such technologies, noting that Africa, with its vast cultural and linguistic diversity, deserves a fair share of AI development. NLP, in particular, holds promise for uniting the continent's many languages, yet Africa's contribution to AI innovation remains limited.

A recent United Nations Advisory Body report on AI highlights the risks of Africa's marginalization in the AI sector. It shows that 118 countries, many in Africa, are not adequately engaged in shaping global AI governance. The lack of representation also could lead to systems to be biased against Africans. Moreover, the report warns of risks associated with advanced AI systems, such as the confabulations of large language

models and the potential threats they pose to peace and security.

One of the most immediate dangers of AI is disinformation. AI-generated fake news is becoming a major threat to democratic institutions worldwide, including in Africa.

The evolving nature of AI makes it crucial to view these risks from the perspective of vulnerable communities and societal interests.

For Africa, the rapid adoption of AI without adequate safeguards could undermine efforts to strengthen governance and social cohesion, according to UN report published last month.

Ethiopia, one of the African countries taking significant steps toward AI integration, is setting an example for the continent. The Ethiopian government has called on both local and foreign investors to take advantage of the AI sector, which aligns with its broader national digitalization goals.

During the Pan-African Conference, Ethiopia's Deputy Prime Minister Temesgen Tiruneh urged African technology developers to create AI-driven solutions that go along with the continent's needs. He pointed out that AI offers a way to unlock Africa's untapped technological potential, while also addressing its unique challenges.

According to Temesgen, Ethiopia's commitment to AI development is evident in the achievements of the Ethiopian Artificial Intelligence Institute. The institute has been implementing projects in areas such as natural language processing, healthcare, and agriculture. For instance, AI-driven medical devices are being deployed to diagnose breast cancer, while AI technologies are optimizing agricultural practices to combat food insecurity. These innovations show how AI can address critical social issues and improve the quality of life for millions of Africans.

The economic potential of AI in Africa is also huge. AI could contribute 1.2 trillion

USD to Africa's GDP by 2030, beyond figure that reflects the potential to economic growth. However, this potential can only be realized if the necessary infrastructure is put in place, Deputy Prime Minister Temesgen acknowledged.

Many African countries, including Ethiopia, still lack the essential infrastructure required to support the growing AI industry. The DPM also emphasized the need for further investment in technological infrastructure to keep up with the growing demand for AI-driven solutions.

Ethiopian Artificial Intelligence Institute Director General Worku Gachena (PhD) reiterated the urgency of Africa's engagement with AI. He warned that as global competition in AI intensifies, African nations must take bold steps to keep pace.

AI holds the potential to revolutionize key sectors such as agriculture and industry, making it a crucial tool for economic empowerment and development, he said.

Opinion

Managing cross border movement in Africa for common good

BY GETACHEW MINAS

African people move across national boundaries for the purpose of earning income through productive employment. They engage in cross-border trading or visiting their relatives. Such movement of people is very common in east Africa. However, the extent to which authorities allow this mobility is based on particular and specific historical and political situations in each country.

Researchers have tried to identify and examine the Ethiopian presence and control of its eastern borders. In this part of the country, they have identified the nature of cross-border movement, including migration, refugee movement, and trade, in the past several decades. Using documented and secondary sources of information, they have registered historical sequences of events on the strong government presence in the border area. They have argued that the important and distinguishable presence of Ethiopia at the border. This is just a result of how the Ethiopian state established the notion of territorial statehood. This is actually recorded in the history of the country.

Popularly accepted notions suggest that local people have strong influence in Africa, including Ethiopia, on border issues. They also have deeper knowledge and influence than the federal government, which is usually confined to the capital city, which is far from the border. The presence of the Ethiopian government at the border areas is consistent with the practice of limited government presence in African borderlands.

The control of territory by the government in the eastern part of the country is historically recorded. Experts in the field have examined the Ethiopian presence at the border by studying the patterns of cross-border movement. They have focused on the manifestation of statehood in eastern Ethiopia. The relation between territorial control and cross border movement revealed the territorial integrity of Ethiopia. Decades ago, after the withdrawal of the colonial forces from the Horn of Africa region, there emerged ideas of what the borders meant for countries of the region.

The ideas of borders related to any country may be seen as directly related to the purpose of marking the limits of strength. Borderlands concern the strength of the government in exercising its power. These lands, however, have similar identifications as spaces that have much of their nature of borders, regardless of whether they are in a country of elsewhere.

According to some experts in the field, identified territory or space is not abstract but real. This refers to the manner in which a government

establishes territorial statehood. Others argue that a territoriality is a historically sensitive use of space. Most of the history of the relationship between African countries and their borders is based on colonial experience. Most of the history on African territories does not take into account countries such as Ethiopia, which have a completely different narrative with colonialism. Similarly, recent studies reveal that it has not been simple to assess Africa's recent past, which is completely different from the colonial records.

Despite the fact that there have recently been a lot of records about Africa, including Ethiopia, most of these do not reflect any form of historical context. However, a different approach has been used by historians to reflect the relationship between Ethiopia and its borders for understanding current practices of territorial integrity. They apply African notions of territorial integrity to understand the current locations after independence.

Studies also refer to Ethiopian understandings of territoriality, highlighting the role of borders in the country. They also discussed the period of rigid state borders in the post independence period. They examined the period that influenced the manner in which the country viewed the border. The studies also explored internal political factors within the eastern border during imperial period. The studies also covered the increased militarization and confrontation with irredentist forces in the eastern border.

Ethiopia has faced several levels of cross-border movement, most of which is characterized by illegal trade and smuggling of goods and unemployed poor people. This situation has led to the confirmation of state failure, collapse or weakness in Africa. Studies have failed to analyze the political development outside and beyond the capital cities. They were, therefore, unsuccessful to explain relations between various countries of Africa. After the Cold War, regional differentiation has emerged as a major guiding principle in Africa, with many countries organizing and cooperating at the sub-regional levels. The inability of those analysts to analyze statehood beyond the nation-state has been a challenge. The preoccupation of Africans with internal "disorder" has meant secession, internal conflict and bloodshed. The focus on internal collapse or disorder has led observers to argue that there is disorder that is current within Africa. However, the African political practices do not conform to practical forms of political organization.

The political practice is based on the decisions reached by newly independent African countries to retain the territorial

boundaries "inherited" from the colonial rule. Consequently, there has been a general agreement on the absence of border conflicts in Africa. This happened despite the existence of states that emerged from "arbitrary" boundaries agreed by African states. Observers call this the paradox of African boundaries. There is consent on some of the rationale why this paradox has continued unresolved.

Some historians have noted that the situation of global state system maintain and sustain this paradox, in relation to the popular notion of the nation-state. However others have moved one step forward by trying to show how the global system holds up the paradox. The general consent is that African countries have generally remained peaceful towards each other. This happened despite internal skirmishes, as the global system recognizes them for staying intact.

Historians recorded that the African concept of statehood gained legitimacy in the global system. However, the territorial arrangement and its popular perceptive is being confronted in the Horn. This region is recognized for its unique nature, with focus on other African regions that peacefully retained "artificial boundaries." Some experts in the field such as C. Young underline that Ethiopia "cries out" for creative imagination and careful study, but does not offer any practical alternatives about it.

However, other experts do not effectively address why lack of recognition for breakaway states does "not deter" secessionist states from fighting for independence in the Horn. These fighters in the Horn appear to be not interested in the "local" power sharing. But, this assertion is challenged as it has not been able to provide the necessary historical analysis that is based on information. It does not investigate the different forms of statehood that continue to emerge in the Horn of Africa.

To understand and appreciate cross border movement in Africa, particularly in the Horn region, it is necessary to focus on history and context. In particular, the context of African state formation is a requirement to conduct historical analyses. The Horn area, in particular Somaliland, raises important issues about the territorial situations. It is suggested to analyze statehood in the Horn where there is no agreement on who comprises a colonial power in the region. This is a serious political issue unlike in other African regions.

A few experts on the issue suggest that some European colonizers might think of Ethiopia as a colonial power in the Horn. But, this silly assumption has to be questioned. The formation of the contemporary Ethiopian state in the late

nineteenth century is a historical fact. The study of the Ethiopian state has to enquire how the state had survived in independence for thousands of years. This requires an understanding of the relationship between the centre and the periphery, like other countries.

Territorial integrity refers to the role of peripheries in a given country. The formation of the Ethiopian state in the late nineteenth century has been shaped by the territories located at the borders. These territories have shaped the development of the state bureaucracy and the national border. They also had asserted "imperial" state power and authority in the last century. The state power in Ethiopia was not a complicated process.

Historians, however, are of the opinion that the political and economic Historians, however, are of the opinion that the political and economic transformation of Ethiopian society was "delayed" because of the organization of state power under the imperial rule. This rule extended to the lowland areas, where pastoralists resided within the Ethiopian boundary. The state became increasingly centralized under imperial rule. The boundaries of the state became more real and defined for the first time. Its territory became more recognized and accepted by European and other states. Border movements between Ethiopian and neighboring states became a reality in which people moved freely.

In some parts of Africa, the center-periphery relationship was figured out by colonial history and experience. Thus, it was this practice that defined the structure of the postcolonial state. In most cases, this structure assumed the form of the urban-rural division. Most independent states maintained this division to fit their power and control. They resorted to increasing the power of central authority while weakening local power structures. This experience of strong central authority was transferred to newly independent countries.

The objectives and means with which it was carried out differed in Ethiopia. Unlike the independent African states, the state in Ethiopia had been the authority in deciding its boundaries. As an independent country, Ethiopia had participated in determining the boundaries in the Horn of Africa. Historians pointed out that the center-periphery relationship in Ethiopia was different because the demarcation of boundaries of the state was decisively pursued by its leaders. As a result, they were able to control cross-border movements for asserting political authority.

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

Editorial

Addis adding capacity, glamour as a metropolis

Addis Ababa City officially launched the second round of the Corridor Development Project at the beginning of this week. This phase aims to develop eight major corridors in the city and is expected to elevate its status as a metropolis, making it more capable, livable, and suitable for the diverse activities carried out by the government, international organizations, and the private sector, among others.

The recently concluded corridor development activities in the metropolis have provided valuable lessons and experiences in transforming urban development and promoting the overall economic and social progress of the city. They have set a precedent for converting old, ramshackle neighborhoods into modern, suitable, and healthy urban areas.

The large number of people who flocked to the new public parks, plazas, and fountains following the inauguration clearly indicates that the corridor development is highly anticipated by the residents. Vehicles that once cluttered the roadsides are now able to park in well-managed parking lots throughout the city. Line taxis and city buses no longer need to stop in the middle of the roads, allowing for a smoother flow of metropolitan traffic, which is typically very busy.

Previously, traffic jams hampered the smooth flow of movement within the city, disrupting daily activities. Obstructing traffic in one area can affect the entire business landscape and daily life of residents, government agencies, and international organizations.

Currently, Addis Ababa is one of the largest metropolitan areas on both the continent and globally. It is not merely a large city with millions of inhabitants; its responsibilities make it a vital urban complex. Founded more than 135 years ago as the seat of the central government, Addis Ababa has undergone progressive changes and now hosts continental and global organizations like the African Union, Economic Commission for Africa, and other international institutions.

Furthermore, Addis Ababa serves as a hub for macroeconomic activities in Ethiopia, one of the five largest economies on the continent. The city handles more than half of the country's trade exchanges, with many import and export operations based here. It also accommodates the largest concentration of industrial activities in Ethiopia.

Additionally, Addis Ababa is an important hub for tourism and international transportation, serving as a destination and transit point for several airlines from Africa, Europe, and the Middle East. Passengers arrive for various purposes, including transit to other destinations or staying for work or leisure.

The metropolis is also a melting pot of culture, education, science, and similar activities for the entire nation. Given its myriad responsibilities, it is clear that the city must have an equivalent level of facilities and infrastructure development to effectively fulfill its roles.

In conclusion, the ongoing Corridor Development Project represents a crucial and timely initiative by the federal government and city administration, poised to elevate the city's standards and effectively meet its diverse needs.

Opinion

Safe and orderly migration will benefit the human society

BY ZEKARIAS WOLDEMARIAM

People often think of migration as a recent phenomenon. However, migration has been a feature of human existence for centuries. Humans have always migrated in groups and as individuals to seek freedom from war and conflict, to escape hunger and poverty, to find new economic opportunities and employment, to flee from religious intolerance or political repression, or even to trade and to travel to new places.

Africa also has a rich history of population movement that pre-dates the colonial period. This included seasonal or circular migration for hunting, agriculture or pastoralism, migration in search of greater security and subsistence, to escape natural disasters and warfare, for trade and pilgrimage. For example, migration from Nigeria during the 17th-18th century was often linked to pilgrimage to religious places in the Arabian Peninsula.

Peoples view of migration is in many cases marred by the problems faced by those migrants who normally leave their homes and got exiled due to problems like war, natural disaster, lack of justice, persecution at home ... etc.

Yet such problems are not the only reasons for people to leave their homes and migrate to other places. They may get new and better opportunities that can benefit themselves, the destination country as well as their own family at home and their country too. This migration should be seen differently and needs due attention so as to reap maximum benefit out of it.

Considering the economic and social benefits of this mode of migration, global organizations like the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and other relevant stakeholders have been making efforts to pave the way for effective movement of people from their origins to destination thereby fostering the economic development of countries as well as the progress of human civilization.

As such the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) is the first inter-governmentally negotiated agreement, prepared under the auspices of the United Nations, covering all dimensions of international migration in a holistic and comprehensive manner. It is a non-binding document that respects states' sovereign right to determine who enters and stays in their territory and demonstrates commitment to international cooperation on migration.

Following the adoption of the GCM by the UN General Assembly in December 2018, international organizations and countries have been implementing the provisions so as to realize its mission of creating safe, orderly and regular migration thereby benefiting migrants and both the origin and destination countries. The organizations and implementing countries with replicable performance have reviewed their journey thus far. The second regional review of the implementation of the GCM took place here in Addis Ababa on Wednesday.

Addressing the review UNECA Executive Secretary Claver Gatete said 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% of global migration. And with over 20% of Africa's population between the ages of 15 and 24, and youth unemployment at 60%, 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.

Gatete further remarked that the continent should realize the implementation of five key priority areas to make migration a dynamic force for sustainable development across the African continent. These areas are the mutual recognition of skills and qualifications across African borders, the absence of which is significantly hampering labour mobility and productivity, reforming social security systems across Africa to allow the portability of benefits, so that migrants do not lose access to benefits such as pensions and healthcare upon crossing borders, accelerating the AfCFTA's implementation to spur greater labour mobility and support economic ambitions, beyond the movement of goods and services, making migration policies integrate climate resilience as climate-induced displacement is increasingly a reality for many in Africa, as well as ensuring stakeholder engagement and data-driven policymaking for effective migration management.

Ethiopia's Minister of Justice Gedion Timothios (PhD) said on the occasion that as a source, transit and destination country for migrants Ethiopia has played a key role in the GCM process from its inception throughout its development and adoption. The country also formally launched the implementation of GCM in 2019, a year after the adoption.

"In the same year, the 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" Gedion noted.

According to the Minister, in 2020 Ethiopia became the first Champion Country of the GCM in the Horn of African region. He added 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.

By enforcing the safe and orderly migration there is hope that people in one side of the planet with little or no economic resources can migrate to the other side where they can benefit themselves as well as their society. The GCM can facilitate migration governance so that migrants could not be vulnerable to the looming threats of slavery, labor abuse, trafficking and other violence's that increasingly befall on them in various places.

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The Ethiopian Herald

Established in 1943

Published daily except Mondays
By The Ethiopian Press Agency

Office of the CEO

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

Advertisement and Dist. Department

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The Ethiopian Herald

Business & Economy

GERD in boosting energy output, catalyzing regional dynamics

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

It is certain that apart from its contribution to Ethiopia's socio-economic development, the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) beyond a shadow of a doubt plays a huge role in smoothing the path of regional economic integration in the course of time.

All things considered, since the laying of the cornerstone for the construction of the flagship project, Ethiopia has been making every possible effort to keep from harm its national interest capitalizing on a diverse range of diplomatic works in multiple platforms and numerous forums.

In actual fact, Egypt has continued pulling out all the stops to undergo a wide spectrum of attempts to get help from their allies for their pessimistic attitudes towards the Abbay Dam that go behind closed curtains. There is no doubt that no matter how far they voyaged, all their efforts have been failing to bear fruits owing to the concerted efforts of Ethiopians.

Failing to learn from their past mistakes, Egypt has continued going to the ends of the earth to tarnish the positive moves of the dam making use of its usual cooked up stories that do not reflect the existing reality on the ground.

In more concrete terms, on numerous occasions Egypt's unchanging stance towards the Dam has been moving the existing situation into uncharted territory. No matter what the cost may be, Egypt is not willing to revise its stand towards the Dam which in black and white demonstrates its unflinching stance not to accept equitable water utilization of the Abbay River.

Notwithstanding the fact that a lot of efforts have been made by some groups to tarnish the positive moves of the government on the subject of the Dam, Ethiopia has continued heading in the right direction giving the cold shoulder to naysayers. In point of fact, Ethiopia on multiple occasions has proved worrywarts wrong.

In the present climate, on the heels of the positive moves being taken by the Ethiopian government, the flagship project is on the way to see the light of day just around the corner.

For the sake of truth, since the laying of the cornerstone, the Dam has been passing through good days and bad days. However, through the commitment and hard work of the federal government and the people of Ethiopia, the Dam has reached where it is in the present climate. The entire journey has not been a low-hanging fruit. It was easier said than done. Following its difficult journey, nobody has expected the Dam will reach where it is today.

In spite of the fact that efforts have been exerted to expedite the construction of the colossal dam and diplomatic efforts with the intention of demonstrating the fact that the Dam is a matter of existence, Ethiopia's arch foes over and over have been endeavoring to drag through the mud its positive developments.

As Ethiopia's accomplishment is a bitter pill to swallow for its adversaries, they every so often leave no stone unturned to throw cold water on the positive developments of the country.

It is common knowledge that Ethiopia has been undertaking various water diplomacy efforts with the purpose of amending wide of the mark



The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD)

narration being propagated by Ethiopia's foes. Reasoning from this fact, the country has been accomplishing the sought after goal and moving forward in the right direction.

Ethiopia's hydro centered energy development activities are exemplary to showcase pollution free clean energy generation, hydropower development researcher and instructor at Addis Ababa University, Ermias Tefera remarked.

GERD is an essential multi-purpose project for ensuring regulated and constant water flow to the lower riparian countries besides its contribution in reducing their vulnerability to flood and for sustained source of energy, it was learned.

The Dam ensures constant water flow to downstream countries by increasing the volume of water by 25% during the dry season and would keep water lost by evaporation only to 12%.

ENA has conducted an exclusive interview with Ermias Tefera to discuss about a hydropower centered energy development and other related issues regarding the development of climate change resilient economic development in Ethiopia.

He said hydropower centered energy provides a great deal of contribution to building a climate resilience economy and ensuring sustainable development.

According to the researcher, the 5,150 MW clean energy, which would be generated from the GERD, will mutually benefit the countries of the region and would promote regional economic integration.

He further added that the Dam will markedly reduce the vulnerability of irrigation schemes in lower riparian countries to torrential floods by reducing the amount of top soil that would be washed away annually.

GERD is a showcase for the promotion of a strong spirit to succeed in development endeavors among Ethiopians and is a symbol of national pride for the country. Ethiopia's hydropower energy development is exemplary

to showcase pollution free clean energy centered power generation, the researcher stated.

Ermias further stated that the GERD has led to the creation of a 1,280 sq. km water body and commended the special contribution made by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed towards the realization of the Dam.

In terms of its capacity to hold water GERD ranks 12th among the dams across the world, the researcher indicated. Egypt's Aswan Dam is the 8th biggest dam in the world and noted that the current pressure being exerted to sabotage the completion of the Dam is unacceptable and counterproductive.

The relentless efforts made by the government and the National Negotiating Technical Committee for all their efforts in resisting the continuous pressure hurdled on the team during the previous negotiations.

After its completion, GERD will become a vital catalyst for urbanization and industrial development by effectively fulfilling the energy needs of the country.

As Ethiopia's adversaries do not know the fact that the Dam means a lot to Ethiopians and they leave no stone unturned to give their all for the construction of the Dam devoid of batting an eye, they endeavor to bewilder the construction of the Dam.

As the federal government and the people of Ethiopia are two sides of the same coin, their dream is turning out to be a reality. It is believed that the Dam will be fully operational in the near future. As the Dam without doubt fashion immense opportunities that could hugely contribute to the economic advancement of Africa, Africans residing under the world skies should join hands for the attainment of the goals.

In the same way, as GERD is an engine for paving the way for socio-economic development in Africa, Africans living in the continent of Africa should act jointly for the fulfillments of the targets.

African nations should enjoy their rights to share electric power from the Nile River in an equitable way. When the Dam becomes operational it will be the leading hydro electrical dam in Africa and beyond.

Albeit Ethiopia has been at loggerheads with its opponents for years regarding the construction of the Dam, it is on the way to embark on harvesting the fruits of success.

In most of the meetings, Egypt and recently Sudan are raising concern in the filling and operation of the Dam. The countries have agreed on most of the issues but few critical points still remain. In most of the articles, the disagreement points are sensationalized and circulated in the media, according to source.

The source went on to say as per World Bank 2018 data, currently, Africa generates 4% of global electricity from which three-quarters of that is used by South Africa, Egypt, and other countries along the North Africa littoral. The World Bank also reported only 48% of the population of sub-Saharan Africa has access to electricity. Ten out of 11 Nile basin countries are categorized under Sub-Saharan Africa.

General Manager of the construction of Abbay Dam, Eng. Kifle Horo told local media recently that the flagship Dam is a shared project of all Ethiopians built with their flesh and blood.

He said that the Dam is now 99.5% complete while the saddle dam has been 100% completed. The overall construction of this flagship project, which is a showcase for the unity of the people of Ethiopia, is now 96.8% completed.

The General Manager stressed that the Dam has not been constructed by a combination of cement and concrete slabs but also the result of the relentless sacrifices paid by Ethiopians in their flesh and blood.

He added that the reformist government had faced a lot of challenges and pressures after the construction was continued in a more efficient manner.

Art & Culture

Oromia has a lot to share for the world

BY NAOL GIRMA

Irreechaa, the colorful festival of the Oromo people, was celebrated last Saturday and Sunday at Hora Finfine and Hora Arsadii; Addis Ababa and Bishoftu. More than two million guests from inside the country and around the world celebrated the colorful *Irreechaa* at Hora Arsadii yesterday.

The *Irreechaa* Caravan travelers have crossed the border for three consecutive years. Our brothers and sisters from Kenya's Tana River, Lamu, and Marsabit counties embarked on the longest Irrecah caravan journey. The succussesfully crossed the border, and they were welcomed by the Moyale Town. The Caravan team celebrated Oromia tourism week and the Irrecha at Hora Finfinnee as well as Hora Arsadii last Saturday and Sunday. The caravan team was welcomed with open arms by the Oromo people and by the Oromia Tourism Commission, said Lalise Duga, Commissioner of the Oromia Tourism Commission.

Thanksgiving Day is more of a family tradition in Ireland and the USA, but in Ethiopia, it is a completely different experience, according to tourists who came for the *Irreechaa* festival, Jhon Chris, a resident tourist from the USA, said he came to Ethiopia three years ago with his family. He celebrated *Irreechaa* for three years at Hora Arsadii. "The Thanksgiving day of Ethiopians with its outdoor magnificence and the way the people dress, chant, and dance in groups is adorable."

Nahili came from Ireland with his wife to celebrate Irrecha. He told *The Ethiopian Herald* that the festival was magnificent with the hospitality and cultural activities of the Oromo people.

People dressed in colorful but white cotton, singing and chanting in groups, have swarmed the streets of Hora Finfinnee, Addis Ababa, and Horra Arsedi, Bishoftu, the past Saturday and Sunday. The tourists from Europe and America found the hospitality and infrastructural developments in Addis Ababa and Bishoftu pleasant. The Irish tourist Nahili told *The Ethiopian Herald* that the corridor development in Bishoftu gives the town more visual value to its adorable landscape and weather condition.

The Oromo People's Thanksgiving Day is part and parcel of the traditional democratic constitutional system of this particular ethnic group. They come out in masses to thank God for all the green, blue, and yellow (the grasses or plants, the water, and the yellow flower of *Adey Abeba*), and they ask for mercy from God. It is a celebration that embraces equality and synergy. Abush Yeshitela, an influential resident of Bishoftu town, said the Oromo people celebrate *Irreechaa* inclusively and welcome anyone from all



Tourists from Ireland



Abush yeshitila

around the world with open arms.

"The people are welcoming. Their dressing is fascinating. The singing, chanting, and dancing make the festival very unique. I can't wait to tell my friends to come and observe the *Irreechaa* next year, said the Irish tourist.

Lalise Duga attended the festival at Hora Finfinnee, Addis Ababa, last Saturday and was also celebrating Hora Arsadii on Sunday. She said the colorful values of Irrecha need more promotion, and there is a lot to be done. Lalise also noted that "Even though the festival is more than colorful, there is not much done in promoting it. The Oromia Tourism Commission will exert maximum effort to promote this magnificent cultural value of the Oromo Gada system."

The Oromo Gada system is the oldest democratic system of the Oromo People, which leaders take eghit years of practical training and four years of active power. *Irreechaa* is one of the traditions of the Gada system, which the Oromo people dedicate the day to give thanks their Creator for all the abundant blessing, the green, the water, the rivers, the lakes and the entire ecosystem.

Bishoftu was more elcoming and colorful than the other times. The corridor development that the town followed suit from Addis Ababa has created a new image. Karen from Ireland said that other cities and towns must take the exemplary move of Bishoftu Town.

Bishoftu, with its wonderful rift valley lakes, amazing landscape, weather conditions, and people's hospitality, is one of Ethiopia's hospitality centers. Tourists who celebrated at Hora Arsadii said they felt at home in Bishoftu. They noted that they received a warm welcome from the residents, and hotel access was very nice.

Meanwhile, the *Irreechaa* festival still lucks promotion from the diaspora

Irreechaa is one of the traditions of the Gada system, which the Oromo people dedicate the day to give thanks their Creator for all the abundant blessing, the green, the water, the rivers, the lakes and the entire ecosystem

community. Its values that embrace nature, women, and people in need have not been recognized by the international community. The Gada system and its *Irreechaa* cultural value give big places

for nature. For instance, wild animals are sacred, and anyone who kills one will be punished. It gives great value for women that if any man abuses one, he will get forty lashes. The Oromo people has many cultural values to share with the international community. The Oromia State is also realizing significant developments in various aspects. The government is discharging efforts for the development of the tourism sector in the region. The Oromia Region, in particular with its vibrant cultural heritage and breath-taking natural beauty, offers an ideal setting for MICE tourism. The region is home to numerous historical sites, scenic landscapes, and modern facilities that make it an attractive choice for international conferences, corporate meetings, incentive travel, and large-scale events.

Not only Bishoftu, but there are towns like Jima the popular place of Coffee, Adama, the place of hot spring waters, Arsi Asela, where all the famous, world record breaker, runners come from bale the world of wild beauty etc. is what Oromia holds. The warm a welcoming hospitality of the people with its rich cultural heritages, like the *Irreechaa*, makes Oromia the best place for tourists to land not only for few weeks but also make residential request and the Ethiopian government has always been generous or welcoming with open arms.

Horra Finfinnee and Arsadii are not the only places, which the Oromo thanks giving day is celebrated in. It will be celebrated everywhere in Oromia and with different traditions of the Oromo people.

Even though the Gada system has different laws in different parts of the Oromia State, it is a democratic system that prioritizes, nature, women and wild animals. *Irreechaa* protects this value. The whole world as well must celebrate and protect *Irreechaa*.

Indepth

Celebrating 'tourism week' to promote tourism

BY FITSUM GETACHEW

A few days ago Ethiopia celebrated the World Tourism Day and we have had lots of activities also because there were also the celebrations of the festivity of *Irreechaa*. *Irreechaa* is a huge thanksgiving day that comes at the end of the rainy season and the beginning of a new year especially for the Oromo community. The fact that it coincided with the World Tourism Day has also given it more attention and added more splendors to the occasion. At the same event various other activities were carried out to ramp up Ethiopian tourist industry introducing colorful occasions such as the *Irreechaa* festivity. *Irreechaa* is a symbol of peace, togetherness, reconciliation and thanks to the Lord for the end of the dark winter season and the beginning of the aura of the bright seasons of spring and summer.

The festival is carried out in the presence of thousands of people who come from every part of the country to Addis Ababa for the Hora Finfinnee celebration and the next day to Bishoftu at Hora Arsadii. In the last few years the festivity of *Irreechaa* has come to be one of the national holidays of the country even among the non-Oromo communities of Ethiopia. This has added to the various items of attraction of tourism from all over the country and abroad. In fact it is to be remarked that it has been inscribed in the UNESCO intangible heritage list as part of the Gadaa system the Oromo community's administrative system that has been practiced for years.

Ethiopia has rich cultural and historic as well as natural attractions that are palatable for every kind of tourists depending on their tastes. There are no doubts about the tourism potential Ethiopia avails. Compared to many countries who manage to earn lots of money from the tourist industry, Ethiopia lags behind even with lots of treasures that it can put to the attention of tourists. Those who have had the occasion to visit Ethiopia have witnessed and admired the quantity and quality of attractions on multiple fronts. The deep cultural values that Ethiopians have preserved intact for centuries are now attraction to tourists who beyond just visiting them have also indulged in researches of various types in historical context and archeological and paleontological sciences.

We have seen countries with much less attractions benefiting enormously economically from their tourist attractions even if they are not as numerous and varied as ours. The Ethiopian government having realized that tourism is a potentially huge economic asset that should be exploited to the maximum it has been promoting all the tourist attractions and assets by preparing the adequate facilities and infrastructure to make tourists comfortable when they come here.

Hence tourism has become one of the sectors that we need to expand and make the best use of it. That is why tourism figures as one of the five pillars of the Homegrown

Economic Reform Program to be given all the attention it deserves. That is why every year the World Tourism Day is marked with various original events with special emphasis on the *Irreechaa* festival and the week of activities that relate to it. There were various events such as beauty contest named as Miss Tourism and the exhibition of the various kinds of Oromo traditional cuisine expressed through a variety of food specialties peculiar and typical of the Oromo community.

In many respects Ethiopia is a country that is endowed not only with natural wonders given its extremely varied landscapes and its unfathomable varieties of wild animals and birds species but also given its various religious and cultural monuments, statues, castles and other remarkable artifacts that witness the thousands of glorious years of history of its peoples and its leaders as inherited to us.

Furthermore, scientists have acknowledged that Ethiopia is the 'cradle of mankind', the home of 'Lucy' the millions years old first hominid and 'Selam' another human skeleton which archeologists and paleontologists have admired as being the most ancient of complete remains of human beings. That is why the Ethiopian government has changed the old slogan used to promote tourism from the land of the "Thirteen Months of Sunshine" to the "Land of Origins". It is well known that tourists adore and enjoy visiting rarities which could be historical, cultural as well as geographical or natural.

The importance of tourism cannot be overstated because it plays a huge role in the economy of the world in general. In many countries it constitutes a sizeable part of their GDP. There are countries including the most industrially advanced ones who do everything within their capacity to attract more and more tourists to their countries because they know and have seen how much they earn in foreign currency from international tourism. In fact it has been named the 'smokeless industry' and given full attention by governments as it is also a source of millions of jobs. In many advanced countries it is among the top ten huge income generators.

Ethiopia's tourism potential is practically untouched given to what extent it can go. When we see countries with much less tourist attractions capitalizing a lot on tourism we can say that we have a long road to go. As one of the most important and influential African countries Ethiopia can attract a lot of tourists to its beaches if it can prepare all the necessary ground work.

In the past few years there have been lots of efforts aimed to do exactly that.

The various resort projects that have been initiated by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) can be noted here. All of them have been completed and ready for use or are in the final phases of completion. The tourist attractions have not been limited to distant places from Addis but even here in the capital

tremendous attractive initiatives have been taken and completed. It is worth noting that Addis is also a huge international airlines hub and millions of passenger's transit here. This presents the occasion to attract these people to visit a few tourist destinations. Addis presents several interesting tourist spots beginning with its monuments to its historic parks and museums.

Ethiopia's magnificent sceneries have been put in display by the various projects under Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's initiative launched four years ago with 'Dine for the Nation' project. Gorgora, Koyisha, Halala Kela, Chebera Churchura and Wonchi are parts of this effort. The state of the art facilities will impress visitors because they may not expect such excellent resort areas that they are accustomed to in other localities. But when they add to that various cultural and religious festivities such as *Meskel Demera*, *Timket*, *Irreechaa* and other New Year festivities of the various peoples of Ethiopia, they realize and acknowledge that it was worth visiting Ethiopia. All of these events highlight the unique natural and historical and archeological endowments of the country.

The fact that Addis Ababa is the diplomatic capital of Africa and seat of many international organizations puts it at an advantageous place to better exploit its tourism potential if it readies it well as it is now doing. Conference tourism is not something that can be undermined because it presents the occasion for those who attend the frequent conferences to visit the country. It also encourages them to come again with their families or tell others what they have seen here.

In many ways tourists have witnessed that Ethiopia is a tourist friendly and attractive country. With more than ten UNESCO inscribed world heritage sites and intangible items to be explored and viewed, it can only be a especially curious and attractive place to visit. In the past Ethiopia may have lagged behind in terms of preparations to accommodate tourists with all the potential. The scarcity of up to standard facilities and amenities that tourists are accustomed to may have discouraged from coming to Ethiopia. But Ethiopia also enjoys one of the most moderate and healthiest climatic conditions in the world with comfortable temperatures. Now that certain lacking infrastructure have been completed tourists could change their mind and flock to Ethiopia.

Ethiopia is now trying to counter the not so positive publicity that some of the mainstream international media have been transmitting. This has definitely discouraged tourists from visiting our country. Many have written alleging that security is an issue in Ethiopia while it is only in identified pockets of the land that have had some form of instability and the government has never declined to accommodate the claims of these armed forces that persist in their attempts to

destabilize the country.

Ethiopia also realizes that given the importance of Ethiopia in geopolitical terms and given that it is a major influence in the African and international scene as a whole there are indications of certain tendencies to interfere in the internal affairs of the country. But there are no doubts that Ethiopia is committed to counter such negative developments and assert its sovereignty and legitimate interests in the Horn of Africa and beyond.

Only words of admiration and appreciation have been expressed by all those who happened to have the privilege to visit the Ethiopia of today. The recently inaugurated resorts areas in several parts of the country is expected to further stimulate the appetite of visitors to step there and enjoy nature at its best as well as have an insight into the history and culture of the country.

It appears that the time has come for Ethiopia to capitalize well more than ever before on this tourist attraction and adding to those that are being carried out in Addis, the prospects remain bright.

Ethiopia needs foreign currency and among the ways it can have it is by attracting as many tourists as possible. The new face of Addis thanks to the Corridor Development Project we now have a truly modern and green cosmopolitan city that does not envy any other attractive city in the world. It now has ultramodern avenues decorated with wonderful sidewalks and greenery with separate pavements for cyclists and people with disabilities. Based on the project of constructing a clean and healthy city things are moving fast towards constructing as many sanitary facilities as possible thanks also to the voluntary participation of citizens particularly the business community who want to see their city attractive, clean and healthy.

As the capital city of the African Union, the great Victory of Adwa is now immortalized at the newly inaugurated Adwa Victory Memorial which is also a pride of Africa. Africans and peoples of African origin can now come to Addis and be well informed about what their forefathers did in 1896 to foil the expansion of European colonialism. Indeed the Adwa Victory Memorial is a window to the history of one of the greatest exploits of Ethiopian and African history. In this regard the efforts of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and the Mayor Addis Ababa Adanech Abiebe and all those who took part in this huge project and realized it must be accorded the deserved credit.

Ethiopia will continue to strive to meet all the demands of potential tourists and fill the gaps as it goes ahead with its trajectory of growth and development until it realizes the full potential of its rich attractions. Ethiopia will one day assert and realize its right and deserved position in world tourism industry.

Law & Politics

CFA ends banal colonial rights

BY DESTA GEBREHIWOT

The Nile Basin Comprehensive Framework Agreement (CFA) entered a significant stage on July 8, 2024, when the Republic of South Sudan ratified the agreement. This momentous occasion ushers in a new era of cooperation in the equitable utilization of shared resources. Equally true, its ratification successfully ends the years of banal debate on so-called colonial era rights by the downstream nations.

Under the patronage of colonial powers, downstream countries have been designated the exclusive proprietors of the longest river in the world, while other riparian states, like Ethiopia, the river's source and main contributor, have been living in darkness because of a shortage of energy.

In fact, transboundary natural resources have been sources of conflicts and confrontations among nations, with the scarcity of natural resources like water and the sharp population growth driving countries against one another. And currently, nations are being forced to come up with various initiatives due to the ever-increasing demand for electricity, drinking water, and other developments fueled by ever-expanding populations. These same reasons emboldened Ethiopia to lay the foundation for its flagship Abbay Dam, also known as the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam. However, the dam is more than a project; it is a clear signal to the world that cooperation is the way forward to ensure mutual growth.

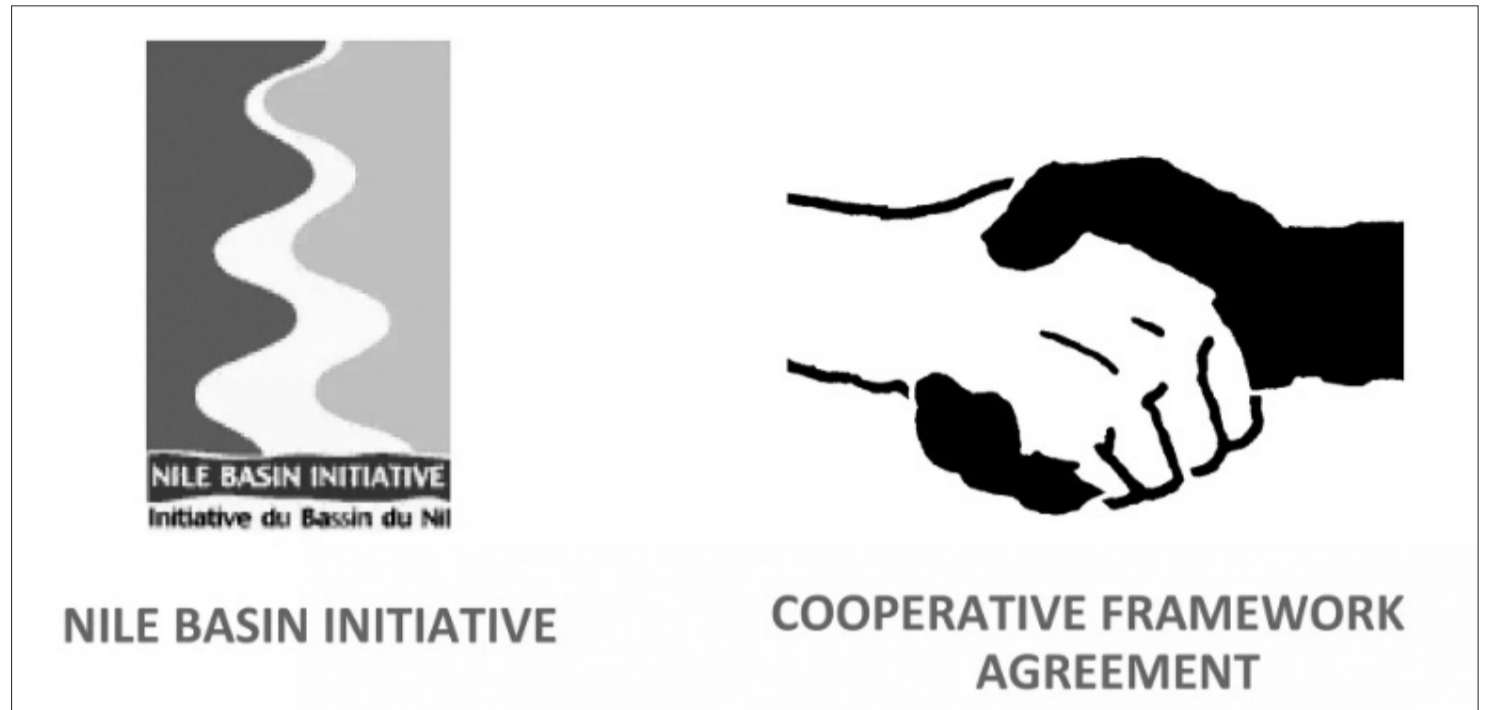
Over the years, the country's brave and audacious leadership has made great strides toward promoting regional cooperation and creating the conditions for equitable and rational resource sharing.

Ethiopia has set the standard for the just and equitable use of the world's longest river with the adoption of the Comprehensive Framework Agreement and the signature of the Declaration of Principles.

The nation has demonstrated its strong opposition to colonial treaties in the Nile that countries downstream frequently bring up. Sudan and Egypt have traditionally been the only nations to profit from the Abbay River, despite it being a shared resource.

Ethiopia's colossal dam for those even-minded countries is a textbook example of regional integration for it would connect other nations to the power grid as well. After the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) was established by the riparian countries of the Nile Basin, the nation was the first to ratify the CFA.

In the recent UN assembly, Ethiopia



reaffirmed its unwavering position on the equitable and fair use of the Abbay River. Despite providing a sizable portion of the shared resource, Ethiopia has been leading the charge to support Regional Corporation and dismantle long-standing abuse and unfair monopolies that have impeded potential progress. Yet Ethiopia has led the charge in uniting riparian nations and developing a shared framework for managing the valuable resource since the start of the Cooperative Framework Agreement (CFA) and the Abbay dam later on.

Empirical evidence has supported the nation's leadership. In addition to being one of the first members of the CFA, the nation also ratified the 2017 Memorandum of Understanding with Sudan and Egypt and the Declarations of Principle. With the ratification of CFA by the necessary number of countries, downstream countries are under more pressure to join upstream countries and cooperate toward shared socioeconomic growth. Ethiopia is at the center of regional collaboration. Ironically, downstream countries that make no contributions have become obsessed with preserving a colonial monopoly, while the largest contributor of the river chooses a path of cooperation and discussion.

Last week, Ethiopia, in the UN General Assembly, encouraged Egypt to ratify the Cooperative Framework Agreement (CFA) on the Nile River that would return the country to peaceful conduct of its relations with the riparian states.

Ethiopia also urged the downstream country to choose the path of negotiation and international law as well as reorient its colonial-based policy on the Abbay (Nile River).

Ethiopian Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations delivered his country's first right of reply

Ethiopia has set the standard for the just and equitable use of the world's longest river with the adoption of the Comprehensive Framework Agreement and the signature of the Declaration of Principles

to the unfounded accusation of Egypt against Ethiopia in its policy statement at the 79th Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA79.)

The diplomat emphasized the importance of regional cooperation and development in managing the shared water resource, local media reported.

Egypt is thus encouraged to ratify the CFA and play a constructive role in regional development, Ambassador Yoseph Kassaye stated.

"Egypt has the golden opportunity to return to the peaceful conduct of its relations with the Nile River riparian states. Egypt is thus encouraged to ratify the CFA and play a constructive role in regional development," he underlined.

Contrary to Ethiopia's bold position,

Egypt has continued to make baseless accusations and unfounded claims. But such efforts are doomed to fail. Egypt should no longer waste time on futile deeds but needs to make up its mind and ratify the agreement.

As the basin stands at a critical juncture, it is imperative that downstream countries consider ratifying the CFA and engaging in meaningful cooperation with their upstream neighbors. The agreement is soon to be signed into law under the auspicious of the African Union.

In the continuing discussion over Nile water rights, the African Union plays a crucial role as a mediator. Its focus on cooperation and unity on a continental scale is exactly in line with the goals of the CFA.

A Sudan and Egypt need to understand that the secret to sustainable resource management is collaboration, not conflict. A crucial chance to create a common vision for the Nile that honors the needs and rights of all participating nations is presented by the CFA.

In an era marked by increasing environmental challenges and dwindling resources, it is essential for all Nile Basin countries to come together. It is time for Egypt and Sudan to seize this opportunity, engage with Ethiopia in a spirit of partnership, and commit to a future where the Nile continues to nourish and sustain all its riparian states. Enforcing CFA creates the fundamental idea that every state in the Nile Basin is entitled to use the Nile River's waters inside its borders. The implementation of CFA would bring about significant changes that Egypt and Sudan cannot afford to ignore or undervalue. It is therefore in Egypt's and Sudan's best interests to join the CFA and collaborate with the other Nile riparian nations to manage, share, develop, and safeguard the Nile River Basin.

Women in Focus

From housemaid to Hotel owner

BY MEKDES TAYE (PhD)

I was in Arba Minch for examining the impressing Gamo culture called Dubusha. One day I was looking for a breakfast. My sister arranged me to stay her on the way I am. She arrived and took me to the eye catching hotel. It says 'Tiruye Hotel'. I was thinking of the name. Could it be the owner? Or could it be the mother or the sister or the daughter or the wife of the owner? I was in this investigation. Since my sister knows the hotel and the foods well, I gave her the chance to choose the food. She called the waiter, and she told him to prepare the roasted meat.

Suddenly, she pointed me to the very gorgeous and beautiful woman greeting and smiling with the customers. I said who is she? "Follow her for a while then I will tell you," she said. I did the same. The woman was quickly running to the kitchen. Then again come back to the waiters' desk, then greets new comers. Though she looks older and a bit bigger, she was too fast in recognizing things and reacting with heartbreaking smile. I can't decide who this woman could be. If I said she is the owner, how could the owner is getting in the kitchen and helps the servants? If she is a guest how could then know everyone in the hotel? I gave up and beg my sister to tell me who this woman is. She knew that no one could expect this. With such confusion the order is served. Very fresh and delicious food! Before my sister answered my question the woman arrived and invited us with biggest respect. Who is this woman sister? I said. "She is the owner of this hotel," She said with grace.

I was very fascinated and feel confident by her deed. I approach her daughter for an interview. She arranged me the time for having a wonderful stay with this woman. I have paraphrased the interview and put it shortly hereunder. Have good read.

Her name is Tiruwork Ayele. She was born in the rural area of the Norther part of Ethiopia. As the culture of the society demanded, she got married while she was 10 years of age. When her age reaches for fertility, she gave birth to four children. The two passed away. Tiruye was a very active girl. She cautiously follows up those girls who came back from urban areas to her place. She saw them as wearing well and having a comfortable life than her. The other cause that made Tiruwork to look for another life was the family related problem that left her tensioned so much. Suddenly her aunt was in a way to run to Addis Ababa. Then Tiruwork though she never learnt and know any other place than hers, she unquestionable run with her aunt. She gave her two children to her mother and left her area with the grievance of her father.

Even though Tiruwork was very new to the life of Addis Ababa, she was very



Photo: Hadush Abreha

committed and strong in facing the challenges she was about. Then she gets in the private house as a housemaid. She worked for nine years. She said she was hard worker, respectful, calm, and shy; she controlled herself from any sexual affair, and never intervene with others cases. Thus, she was safely doing her job. She said she was saving some money at this stage.

Then she met with some friends. They decided to go to Arsi Negele. Tiruwork run from Addis to this town. After same time she gone to Sheshemene then finally she reach at Arba Minch with the help of her friends.

In Arba Minch she was employed as a waiter at Wubete Hotel. She was working with enthusiasm, courage, honesty and without any reservation. The owners loved her and start worrying about her future. She said they advised her to buy a piece of surface for the time being and she could construct a little home for herself. Since she was very committed and goal oriented, she was saving money with the cultural saving system called Ekub. She worked harder and buys the said place. Then after some time she constructed a small house of her own. After working for 4 years and 8 months, she left this hotel and get in to her new home.

Now Tiruwork become independent of

anyone. She started working by herself. She twitches making Shiro Wott. After adapting the atmosphere, she gradually added selling the cultural beer called Tela.

Since she is too pretty and alone there were lots of challenges related to her femininity. Some individuals had tried their best to take advantage of her. But, she never gave up. "My passion is to work hard and changing my life; I never gave any chance for such an issue. Some people were in a way to block my effort. I never allow any body to do this on me. I face them till the end for preserving my own right and asset."

If someone is very committed on achieving something it is possible to achieve. I keep on working hard. Since I am a service provider, I am good at communicating with people. I respect everyone. I serve everyone equally. For me all the customers are the same and come to my service for gaining good time. Thus I know that and react that way till this day.

After securing herself Tiruwork has brought her two children. Then she took them to school. Now they are very successful and leading good life.

Her capital had boosted up from time to time. Then Tiruwork had built more houses and one of the best hotels in Arba Minch called Tiruwork Hotel.

Though I was feeling that many more stories could be posited from this strong woman, I was forced to cease it that way with the last one more question. What do you need to say for those women who need to take over the same journey? Here is her reply:

You see, these days, I realize that girls and women, who are in the same job, prefer to be seen, to be adored. That should be changed. The primary thing and bigger concern should be the comfort of the customers and the quality of the served food and drink. Why they worry for the neatness of their hand, their beauty and their protocol? I agree that they should cloth good. But they need to work with their workers, serve their customers with respect. At that place the king is the customer. Thus they need to recognize the needs and feelings of the guests.

In addition to this, these days' youths wanted to be successful with minimum effort. That is wrong. Success is the result of effortless trial. It cannot be achieved with simple move. People should be consistent in their goal. If you stick on your goal then be careful on the thorns you could face at your journey. In this profession you need to be hard worker, honest, strong and visionary. Sometimes I see youngsters to start it and lost it out. Success could not be seen as expected. You need to be strong to exercise failures. It could take time to achieve, so be patient and passionate on your work.

Success is the result of effortless trial. It cannot be achieved with simple move. People should be consistent in their goal. If you stick on your goal then be careful on the thorns you could face at your journey

Society

Irreechaa transcend borders, foster understanding: Foreign visitors

BY MENGISTEAB TESHOME

Visitors from the USA and Canada who attended this year's *Irreechaa* festival, the Oromo people's Thanksgiving celebration in Addis Ababa, described the event as peaceful and mesmerizing. The vibrant colors of traditional attire, dynamic dances, and captivating rhythms of the festival were breathtaking and reflect the true identity of Ethiopians. *The Ethiopian Herald* had a brief conversation with them at Meskel Square.

Chauncey Powell, from the USA shared his thoughts on the *Irreechaa* festival, calling it "magnificent in all parameters." He noted, "I am thrilled to be part of the celebration. I'm here with my wife, and the people are welcoming and peaceful. This is my first time in Ethiopia. I've learned that the *Irreechaa* Festival is a vibrant expression of culture, unity, and gratitude, which has recently garnered attention from international visitors, particularly from the United States. This year's festivities attracted a diverse crowd, with overwhelmingly positive reactions highlighting the festival's impact on cultural appreciation and global connections."

Many U.S. visitors arrived with little knowledge of Oromo culture but left with a profound appreciation for its richness. One attendee remarked, "Witnessing the *Irreechaa* Festival was a transformative experience. It opened my eyes to the beauty of Ethiopian culture and the significance of community in celebrating life."

The *Irreechaa* Festival represents more than just a celebration; it embodies gratitude, community, and cultural identity. Visitors are warmly invited to join this magnificent celebration, creating unforgettable memories while embracing the spirit of the Oromo people. Their presence not only enriches their own experiences but also contributes to a deeper global understanding of diverse cultures.

Addis Ababa has undergone significant urban development, resulting in modern infrastructure that complements its historical charm. The construction of new roads, public transportation systems like the Addis Ababa Light Rail, and improved facilities have made the city more accessible and enjoyable for tourists.

The colorful parades, traditional music, and lively dances left a lasting impression on attendees. Canadian visitors marveled at the energetic performances, stating that the festival showcased not only Oromo culture but also the spirit of joy and togetherness. A Canadian visitor expressed, "I was mesmerized by the dances and the music. It felt like a celebration of life itself. Everyone was so welcoming, and I felt a sense of belonging even as an outsider."

The revitalization of public spaces, such as Meskel Square, Entoto, and Unity Park, has added to the city's charm. These areas are now bustling with activity, providing locals and visitors alike places to relax, socialize, and enjoy cultural events.



Chauncey Powell from USA at Meskel Square along with his wife

One visitor shared, "My soul mate is an Ethiopian lady from the Oromo community. We experienced the Thanksgiving scene, and everything was peaceful and wonderful. I am proud to be here at this celebration. From the bottom of my heart, I invite everyone to come to Ethiopia and experience this wonderful cultural event."

Irreechaa stands as a significant asset for tourism, potentially enhancing the influx of visitors and generating income for the national economy. Stakeholders and tour operators should work diligently to promote this festival globally through various means.

The whole event at *Irreechaa* festival is more than just a jubilee; it is a celebration of life and culture as well as community. One who

looking to explore new cultures, enjoy vibrant festivities, or connect with people from different backgrounds, *Irreechaa* is a must-visit event that promises unforgettable experiences. "I want to encourage and plan everyone for visit and immerse in the beauty and spirit of this remarkable festival."

In an exclusive interview with *The Ethiopian Herald*, Canadian visitor Fedri Kevin noted, "I found the festival to be very interesting and colorful. I experienced the warmth and hospitality of the Oromo people and the whole Ethiopians. I am here with wife and daughter. The joy I have experienced was special. I am sure engaging with locals provided insight into their customs, beliefs, and the historical significance of *Irreechaa*."

He added, "It reminded me that, despite our differences, we all share similar hopes, dreams, and values. It was inspiring to connect with people from different backgrounds, all united in celebration."

Both visitors emphasized that the *Irreechaa* Festival illustrates the power of cultural celebrations to transcend borders and foster understanding. The festival not only offers unique insights into Oromo culture but also creates lasting connections between visitors and the local community. As more people from around the world discover and participate in events like *Irreechaa*, the potential for cross-cultural dialogue and appreciation continues to grow, enriching the global tapestry of human experience.

This year, the *Irreechaa* Festival drew thousands of attendees, including tourists, diplomats, and cultural enthusiasts, all eager to witness the vibrant displays of tradition and community spirit. The vivid clothing, traditional music, and dance performances captivated the audience, showcasing the rich heritage of the Oromo people. Furthermore, the event serves as a platform for many to engage in dialogues about the importance of cultural preservation in an increasingly globalized world. Attendees shared stories of their own cultural backgrounds, creating a unique and vibrant mosaic of shared experiences that highlight the universal values of respect and harmony.

In addition to its cultural significance, the festival also emphasizes the importance of environmental stewardship, as participants traditionally gather at bodies of water to offer thanks for the blessings of nature and to advocate for its protection. As participants left the festival, many expressed a renewed commitment to not only preserving their cultural identities but also to promoting a sense of global responsibility that unites us all in the face of shared challenges.

As news of the festival spreads, it is not only affirming the presence of the Oromo culture on the world stage but also promoting a message of peace, resilience, and interconnectedness that is more critical now than ever. The joy and camaraderie observed during the *Irreechaa* Festival signal hope for a world where diverse cultures can thrive together, fostering an environment where everyone feels valued and respected. As we move forward, events like *Irreechaa* are more than mere celebrations; they are vital steps towards understanding and embracing our differences while forging stronger bonds within our global community.



Published Weekly in Collaboration with Haramaya University

EPSS recognizes HU teaching hospital SCMS, collaboration

BY DIRRIBA TESHOME

Ethiopian Pharmaceutical Supply Service (EPSS) recognized Haramaya University (HU) Teaching Hospital-Hiwot Fana Comprehensive Specialized Hospital-efforts on the Sixth National Pharmaceutical Supply Chain Annual Review.

The Service provided the certificate of recognition to the hospital for its dedication in strengthening Supply Chain Management System (SCMS) and with collaborative efforts with the Ethiopian Pharmaceutical Supply Service.

It is a reward to the performances registered in the Ethiopian fiscal year and motivates all the hospital's community for better achievements, HU Public and International Relations Directorate reported so congratulating all in Amharic on the HU's social media outlet.



Published Weekly in Cooperation with Dambi Dollo University

DaDU enhances student digital library

BY DIRRIBA TESHOME

In this era characterized by an abundance of information, maintaining a strong connection with the technologically advanced landscape is essential for obtaining timely and effective information. This is particularly crucial within higher education institutions, where the adaptation to cutting-edge technology and the establishment of digital library is vital for facilitating diverse teaching, learning, and research activities.

For the 2024/25 Ethiopian academic year, Dambi Dollo University (DaDU) undertook a significant initiative to digitize its library in this information driven century. A total of 310 users can simultaneously access digital reading services through computers and the internet, as well as engage with technology effectively.

DaDU digital library presents numerous advantages for the students and researchers, such as it grants users the ability to access a wide range of academic materials, including journals, books, and research articles, from any location with internet connectivity.



Photo: Raga Hora

Students in the digital library

Users of digital libraries can efficiently search for, access, and download resources without the necessity of physically visiting a library or awaiting the arrival of materials.

This efficiency conserves time and energy, enabling users to concentrate on their academic pursuits or research activities. This feature is especially beneficial for individuals who may

lack access to traditional libraries.

DaDU Library and Documentation Director, Mohammedamin Teshome, stated the digital library has been implemented using Dspace and Koha software. The digital content includes a collection of electronic books (eBooks) and electronic journals (e-Journals), which can be supplemented with additional databases,

providing users with internet-based services within the campus network.

He added that the Digital Library Software DSpace is being utilized to collect, preserve, and disseminate digital content from research conducted both within and outside the university.

He also emphasized the significance of the digital library, stating that it will enhance the educational experience by transitioning the teaching and learning processes to a digital format, thereby fostering greater engagement in learning, teaching, and research activities within the university.

Furthermore, the university is offering outstanding services aimed at enhancing the intellectual growth, academic achievement, and technological adaptation of students, faculty, and staff, he stated.

In summary, DaDU digital library possesses the capacity to enhance educational quality by offering increased accessibility, convenience, flexibility, and opportunities for collaboration among students, academicians, and researchers. (Compiled from DaDU Public and International Relations Directorate report)



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