

Ethiopia, Japan celebrate longstanding friendship

• *Ambassador highlights cultural exchanges' importance*

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA--The Embassy of Japan in Ethiopia emphasized the significance of cultural and people-to-people exchanges in enhancing bilateral relations during the Japan Culture Day celebration held at RasMekonnen Hall, Addis Ababa University (AAU).

Japanese Ambassador to Ethiopia, Shibata Hironori stated that such exchanges are crucial pillars in deepening mutual understanding between the citizens of Ethiopia and Japan, complementing economic and political ties. He affirmed Japan's commitment to strengthening the historic bilateral relations between the two nations.

Ethiopia and Japan have enjoyed nearly a century of friendship since the Treaty of Amity was signed in 1930, marking Japan's first diplomatic relations with an African nation. Since then, the two countries have reinforced their political, economic, cultural, and people-to-people exchanges.

In the economic sphere, Japan has provided official development assistance in various sectors since 1963, including humanitarian and peace-building support to Ethiopia.

Regarding people-to-people exchanges, the Ambassador noted that his government's scholarship programs have enabled over



Ambassador Shibata Hironori

300 Ethiopians to study in Japan over the past two decades, with many alumni now teaching at universities, including AAU. Additionally, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has invited approximately 3,700 Ethiopians to Japan for training programs and dispatched around 2,200 Japanese experts to various Ethiopian ministries.

Over the past 50 years, more than 700 Japanese volunteers have worked alongside Ethiopian counterparts in schools, hospitals, and NGOs, contributing to Ethiopia's development by sharing their skills, knowledge, and experiences.

AAU Interim President, Samuel Kifle (PhD), noted that the cultural day serves



Samuel Kifle (PhD)

as a reminder of the longstanding cultural connections between Ethiopia and Japan, dating back to 1930. He mentioned collaborations in arts, sports, and disciplines such as karate.

Kifle acknowledged the strength of political and economic ties between the two countries and expressed gratitude for the scholarships and training programs facilitated by the Japanese embassy and JICA, which have significantly benefited AAU's faculty and students.

He also mentioned ongoing initiatives with JICA to support AAU startups, underscoring the continued support from the Japanese ambassador and JICA office in these endeavors.



JICA empowering women to produce sanitary pads

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA - The reusable sanitary pad making training provided to women and girls by Japan Cooperation Agency (JICA) is impactful to improve hygiene and livelihood, so said trainees.

With sewing machines donated by the Japanese government, JICA Ethiopia is providing Ethiopian girls and women with trainings on how to make and use reusable sanitary napkins at Selam Children's Village, to improve hygiene and livelihood.

One of the beneficiaries of the training, fashion designer Ikrem Bahiru, recently told *The Ethiopian Herald* that JICA Ethiopia helped her to get fee free sanitary pad production training.

"We are set to complete the training on sewing women sanitary pads from the initial to the final stage in one month," she said.

After completing the training, the women

can work individually to achieve their ambitions and bring sustainable changes in their lives. "I have a plan to start my own business after the training," Ikrem expressed.

Another trainee Misikir Dinku, noted that the training helped the women to know how to cut sanitary pads pattern, prepare and sew it.

It is significant to improve the women's skills and enable them to be competent in producing more pads with little effort, she said.

"I have been learning sewing techniques supported by the latest technology to prepare reusable pads that are safe, comfortable and cost-effective."

Sanitary pad production trainer, Gezahegn Asfaw on his part said that training aims to empower girls and women with knowledge and skills to manage their menstrual hygiene in a sustainable way in school or working places.

JICA facilitates the training program and supports the development of human resource in Ethiopia. He added that the sewing machine that the trainees using is new and introduced to Ethiopia recently to benefit the women that cannot afford for it.

The training targets to reach about 500 girls in five batches over a period of five months, according to Gezahegn.

"We have planned to produce to the local market and to address the beneficiary. This is the first batch and these trainees are finally expected to produce the sanitary pads," he said.

This is an important opportunity for the nation as the trainees will improve their skills to make productive work employed in companies or start their own businesses, he added.

"We will link the trainees with industrial parks or other organizations but if they want, they can do their business," the trainer indicated.

Private sectors ought to play part in boosting coffee benefits: Association

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA – Ethiopian National Coffee Association has urged private sectors to join hands in producing quality coffee, exporting, and generating adequate revenue through contributing knowledge, finance and skill.

Ethiopian National Coffee Association President, Hussein Ambo (PhD) told *The Ethiopian Herald* that about 30% to 40% of Ethiopia's coffee is exported to European countries meeting the European Union's deforestation free regulation (EUDR).

However, he said that concerted effort among private sectors and technology assisted production is necessary to boost productivity and ensure adequate and sustainable benefit of actors in the coffee supply chain.

Ethiopia grows coffee on 1.2 million hectares of land while complying with EUDR requires knowledge, technology, finance, time, and other resources. Therefore, the active involvement of private sectors is essential to achieve sustainable advantages, Hussein noted.

He pointed out that his association incorporates coffee producers, roasters, exporters and suppliers with an ambition to employ concerted efforts to process and export the product with quality and volume.

Ethiopian Coffee Association President, Dessalegn Jena expressed that exporting value added coffee product helps the country to earn better and build the confidence of its international recipients.

Therefore, he stressed that developmental partners, private sectors, farmers, and exporters need to work collectively to supply quality coffee beans to the global market and create meaningful impact in the sector.

He added that over 3 million coffee farmers are working with the association in Oromia, Sidama, and South West states. The association primarily supports the farmers since they produce 95 % of total coffee product.

As to Hussien, the association is always keen to work in close with the Ethiopian Coffee and Tea Authority in addressing coffee sector bottlenecks including logistic problems.

Editorial

Ethiopia: A symbol of peace and diplomacy

Singled out for its tranquility and resilience as well as its huge role in maintaining peace at regional, continental and global level ancient Ethiopia has become a looked-forward country to conduct experiences cross-pollinating conferences specially those revolving around peace. Its capital Addis undergoing refurbishment is also alluring foreigners. Soon a continental conference on peace that brings together 22 countries will be conducted here in Addis.

Ethiopia's role in promoting peace in the Horn of Africa and beyond is of paramount significance, shaped by its strategic location, historical context, and diplomatic initiatives. As a nation that has endured its own internal conflicts, Ethiopia understands the complexities of peacebuilding and has positioned itself as a mediator in regional disputes. This understanding allows Ethiopia to engage effectively with various stakeholders, thereby facilitating dialogue and negotiations aimed at conflict resolution.

Historically, Ethiopia has been a center of diplomacy in the Horn of Africa, serving as a mediator in several high-profile conflicts. Its involvement in the peace process in South Sudan is particularly notable. Ethiopia played a crucial role in brokering peace agreements between warring factions, demonstrating its commitment to regional stability. By hosting peace talks and providing a neutral ground for negotiations, Ethiopia has helped to foster trust among parties who might otherwise be reluctant to engage in dialogue.

Additionally, Ethiopia's membership in the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) has further solidified its influence in regional peace efforts. IGAD is a key regional body that addresses issues of security, development, and humanitarian crises in the Horn of Africa. Ethiopia's leadership within IGAD has enabled it to spearhead initiatives aimed at resolving conflicts in South Sudan and Somalia, where the presence of armed groups poses significant challenges to peace and stability.

The Ethiopian government has also emphasized the importance of addressing the root causes of conflict, such as poverty, inequality, and political exclusion. By prioritizing development and inclusive governance, Ethiopia aims to create an environment conducive to lasting peace. This approach recognizes that military solutions alone are insufficient; sustainable peace requires addressing the underlying grievances that fuel conflict.

Ethiopia's role extends beyond its borders, as the nation actively participates in peacekeeping missions across Africa. It is one of the largest contributors to United Nations peacekeeping forces, with troops deployed in various conflict zones, including South Sudan and the Central African Republic. These contributions not only enhance Ethiopia's standing on the international stage but also demonstrate its commitment to collective security and the protection of vulnerable populations.

The African Union (AU), headquartered in Addis Ababa, further amplifies Ethiopia's influence in peace and security matters. The AU has been instrumental in deploying peacekeeping missions and mediating conflicts across the continent. Ethiopia's hosting of the AU allows it to play a central role in shaping continental policies and strategies aimed at conflict resolution, making it a pivotal player in Africa's peace architecture.

Ethiopia also employs a strategy of regional diplomacy that involves engaging with various actors, including civil society, religious leaders, and local communities. This inclusive approach ensures that peace initiatives are not solely top-down but also resonate with the needs and aspirations of the affected populations. By fostering grassroots participation in peace processes, Ethiopia contributes to building a culture of peace and reconciliation.

Moreover, Ethiopia has been proactive in addressing transnational issues that threaten regional stability, such as terrorism and climate change. The rise of extremist groups in the Horn of Africa necessitates a collaborative approach to security. Ethiopia has worked with neighboring countries to enhance intelligence sharing and coordinate efforts to combat terrorism, recognizing that security is interconnected across borders.

The significance of Ethiopia's role in peacebuilding is further underscored by its ability to navigate complex geopolitical dynamics. As a nation with a rich history and diverse cultural fabric, Ethiopia has leveraged its diplomatic ties with various global powers to garner support for its peace initiatives. This ability to engage with a wide range of actors enhances its capacity to advocate for peaceful solutions to conflicts in the region.

In conclusion, Ethiopia's contributions to peace in the Horn of Africa and beyond are multifaceted and deeply rooted in its historical experiences and diplomatic strategies. By serving as a mediator, contributing to peacekeeping efforts, and fostering inclusive dialogue, Ethiopia has established itself as a key player in the quest for stability and security in a region marked by conflict. Its ongoing commitment to peacebuilding will be crucial for addressing current challenges and ensuring a more peaceful future for the Horn of Africa and the broader continent.

The statement by the ministry of peace is in the same wavelength.

Opinion

Persuasive Grounds to Recognize the De Facto State Somaliland

BY WONDWOSSEN ALEMAYEHU HAILE

Somaliland is an autonomous self-declared state ever since 1991. The state had remained as de facto state for the last thirty three years. Nobody knows for sure how long the de-facto statehood of Somaliland would remain while the global and neighboring countries forfeiting it the right to becoming a sovereign country.

The Republic of Somaliland, which had proclaimed a unilateral declaration of independence, used to be an integral part of The Somalia Republic since 1960 until it outrightly declared its autonomy thirty three years ago. However, the circumstance of statehood is still unilateral and denounced by the mother state: The Somalia Republic. The Republic of Somalia still takes a strong stance on the territorial integrity of their country with part of Somaliland combined despite Somaliland's self declaration of independence for over three decades. What are the pushing factors behind for Somaliland to claim secession and remain as de facto state ever since?

One of the factors predominantly underscored for Somaliland to proclaim Statehood separating itself from the political union with the Somalia Republic was the systematic and deliberate involvement of the government of Somalia Republic in the humanitarian crisis that claimed the lives of over 200,000 innocent people in parts of Somaliland under Ziad Barre regime in 1987 and 1988. The government is ascribed accountable for the genocide happened on the Somali Isaak clan in Somaliland which was also termed as Somali Holocaust. Such demise of the government precipitated the scholars from part of Somaliland to move forward with the vision of securing autonomy.

The other presumptive pushing factors for Somaliland's declaration of independence was the clan-based faction and corruption deep rooted in the government structure which was infused with systematically segregating the Isaak Clan from political power and any sort of economic opportunities in the country. The government institutions which were preoccupied with the dominance of few selected Somali clans had intensified the proliferation of multiple clan based armed groups along with Islamic extremists attributable to the collapse of the state. As a result of these persuasive factors and among others, Somaliland's journey to independence came to set out.

With all such notable grounds for declaration of independence, the State of Somaliland is still remaining a de facto state being unrecognized by any country in the world and international institutions as United Nations. What are the prominent reasons for the neighboring countries such as Ethiopia and the west to deny recognition for the de facto State Somaliland?

All countries including the neighboring, Ethiopia, have unequivocal interest to grant recognition for Somaliland, but it comes with conditions. No country would like to be on the first line to recognize the state of Somaliland for fear of condemnation and political friction from the Somalia Republic and its allies such as Italy which was its former colonial protectorate.

The other claim by different countries to withhold recognition was the claim that consolidation of the political centralization of the Somalia Republic should take precedence to declaring the statehood of Somaliland. The Somalia Republic is still constituted with weak central power becoming safe haven for piracy and diverse armed groups including the internationally recognized terrorist group, Al Shabaab. Without the existence of strong

central political power in The Republic of Somalia, it is impossible to maintain sustainable peace in the horn of Africa which also tantamounts to destabilize Somaliland. In other words, fixing every sort of problem in Somalia should be a priority over granting recognition to Somaliland.

The Somalia Republic was under arms embargo from the United Nation's Security Council since 1992 for over 15 years. The sanction of weapons came about to deter further humanitarian crisis in the failed state Somalia. With this and other viable reasons the United Nations and other countries of the west, claim stability and proper functioning of government in Somalia Republic before recognizing the state of Somaliland.

Regardless of all the above presumptuous reasons to deny recognition, the state of Somaliland is sustaining a well centralized government with functioning democracy. The de facto state of Somaliland is enjoying sustainable security and economic progress in comparison to the Somalia Republic. As a result, there is no plausible ground for Somaliland to turn back to the failed state Somalia for political union.

Somaliland's possession of well defined territorial integrity with permanent population is the other convincing grounds to recognize the state as sovereign country. The Isaak Somali clan of Somaliland is relatively enjoying sustainable security with progressive economic development which is Paramount for regional integration and so much more.

What is more, the de facto state Somaliland comprises of strong and independent military apparatus which vests more opportunity for recognition as sovereign country. It constitutes independent defense force and police institutions as part of the territorial integrity of the state. The establishment of its own currency for the last thirty three years is the other element taken up to recognize the state as independent sovereign country.

Ethiopia's effort to develop Somaliland's port of Berbera for its use as well as regional integration came about with a strong protest from Somalia Republic. As Somalia Republic still claims the unilaterally self declared state as part of its territorial integrity, it demands Ethiopia not to make any direct political dialogue with Somaliland claiming that Somaliland is part and parcel of The Somalia Republic. For this reason, the central government of The Somalia Republic claims that they should be communicated before any deal with Somaliland, however different the practical sense of politics between Somaliland and The Somalia Republic on the real life scenario.

The Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs high level officials' dialogue with their counterparts from Somalia Republic in Turkey was confirmed to be ended with no viable outcome. On such important convention, Somalia accused Ethiopia for showing unwillingness to accept the territorial integrity of The Republic of Somalia. While Ethiopia should not be held responsible for the historical intricacies between them.

In a nutshell, the United Nation and all other sovereign countries should call for the stronger centralized government in Somalia Republic for sustainable regional security in the horn of Africa and be advocate for recognition of the state of Somaliland which will no longer be part of The Somalia Republic for myriads of viable reasons as explained.

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



The Ethiopian Herald

Established in 1943

Published daily except Mondays
By The Ethiopian Press Agency

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News



Ethiopia unveils..

applications yesterday.

The Timbuktoo Initiative, a transformative Pan-African effort, aims to elevate innovation across the continent. With a billion-dollar early-stage risk capital fund, it stands as the world's largest endeavor to support Africa's innovation ecosystem.

Focusing on sectors like fintech, agritech, and manufacturing technology, the project spans eight African countries, with Ethiopia joining as the ninth. Ethiopia's emphasis will be on manufacturing tech startups driving innovation in robotics, AI, IoT, and related systems.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Industry, the initiative will establish the ManuTechHub, serving as a launchpad for startups shaping the future of manufacturing on the continent. It will provide entrepreneurs with mentorship, market access, and capital, empowering

them to innovate and scale solutions addressing Africa's challenges while seizing its immense opportunities, Belete stated.

Industry Minister, Melaku Alebel, emphasized that the public consultation marks a critical milestone in transforming Ethiopia's entrepreneurial and industrial landscape, positioning the country as a leader in innovation and manufacturing. He noted that Ethiopia's Homegrown Economic Reform Agenda and Ten-Year Development Plan set ambitious goals to become the continent's manufacturing hub.

The vision extends beyond industrialization, aiming to support startups and leverage their potential to create sustainable economic opportunities. The draft proclamation represents a crucial step toward establishing a legal and institutional framework that enables startups to thrive in Ethiopia, fostering a conducive environment for

innovation and investment.

Finance State Minister, Eyob Tekalign (PhD), noted that the policy direction demonstrates the government's trust and commitment to the youth. He emphasized that recent years have underscored Ethiopia's potential to become a startup nation, making it imperative to embark on collaborative efforts.

"With collaborative effort, startups can serve as engines for growth while supporting other sectors. Ethiopia has a significant opportunity to become a thriving hub for startups, given the undeniable passion, potential, and supportive ecosystem," he remarked.

However, the state minister stressed that the success of the policy depends on the active participation of investors, development partners, policymakers, and other stakeholders.

Premier inaugurates 'Quality Village'

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA – Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) inaugurated the National 'Quality Village' in Addis Ababa.

Before the official inauguration yesterday, the Prime Minister visited and reviewed the National Quality Infrastructure developed by the government.

"This critical institution is designed to catalyze the competitiveness of our local products in global markets and enhance our participation in global value chains," the Premier noted.

"As one of our leading national institutions, it will play a vital role in strengthening our export capabilities and ensuring we remain competitive in the international arena," the Prime Minister pointed out.

Ethiopia keeps...

endeavors. They are defining the strategic importance of a country. Abundant mineral resources offer immense potential for growth and prosperity. However, their true value lies in how they are exploited."

According to the President, Artisans mining has sustained the livelihoods of 1.5 million people. The sector remained largely underdeveloped. The newly introduced mining policy prioritizes a transparent regulatory environment, attracting both domestic and foreign investment, promoting sustainable mining practice and fostering strong engagement with the wider public.

It is critical for existing and potential investors to introduce cutting-edge technology and establish dedicated departments to transfer knowledge and expertise, and investors to align with the global supply chain to align and ensure fair and equitable mining landscape to stimulate the mining sector, he emphasized.

For his part, Mines Minister Habtamu Tegegne said that the government has been heavily investing in various infrastructures to foster mining development. Moreover, the country connected to Djibouti through Ethio-Djibouti railway and Ethiopian

Airlines will also provide pivotal opportunities for the global mining sector. Reliable network infrastructure and a young and dynamic workforce will establish leverage for the competitiveness of Ethiopia's mining sector productivity.

He also stressed the significance of recent macroeconomic reforms in attracting investment to the mining sector, with the government committed to supporting investors and fostering stronger partnerships.

The country has reserves of lithium, tantalum, Nickel and other rare metals that are in high demand for green energy solutions, advanced technologies and the digital economy. Sustainable mining practice is essential for securing social license, to operate and protecting natural resources and the future generations would be dependent on. The government is committed to fostering a regulatory environment that encourages innovation and social responsibility.

The MINTEX 2024 Expo, which has been held annually in Addis Ababa for the past two years, will remain open to the public for four days, showcasing the latest innovations in mining technology and industry developments, it was learnt.

Way for Ethiopia's...

adoption of electric vehicles (EVs). This groundbreaking policy has created opportunities for EV manufacturers and private sector investors to thrive in Ethiopia's emerging EV market.

Organized by the Ministry of Transport and Logistics, the expo runs from November 22 to 30, showcasing the latest innovations in sustainable mobility, including advanced electric vehicles and renewable energy technologies. The event underscores Ethiopia's strides in green energy, presenting cutting-edge solutions to achieve sustainable energy transformation and environmental protection.

Kaki Motors Public Relations Head, Engidasew Demise, praised the government's bold steps in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and advancing the green economy. He highlighted the adoption of EVs as a significant milestone in Ethiopia's green energy transition and sustainable development goals.

Kaki Motors, a leader in Ethiopia's automotive industry, has emerged as a trailblazer in the green energy transition. With nearly two decades of experience, the company has established itself as a major player in vehicle assembly and manufacturing. Notably, it inaugurated Ethiopia's first Isuzu vehicle assembly center on October 14, 2023, in collaboration with Isuzu Motors. This facility transfers

cutting-edge technology and knowledge to Ethiopia's automotive sector.

Speaking on the Ethio-Green Mobility Expo 2024, Engidasew mentioned its focus on Ethiopia's burgeoning EV sector and the nation's efforts to establish a sustainable transportation system. Kaki Motors, among others, is playing a pivotal role in supporting the government's efforts to reduce carbon emissions and foster a sustainable green economy.

Electric vehicle manufacturers and assemblers in Ethiopia benefit from significant tax incentives as part of the government's green economy transformation strategy. This, coupled with an anticipated increase in electricity supply from the Abbay Dam, positions Ethiopia as a rising hub for EV ownership. Consequently, the number of electric vehicles, including passenger and commercial types, has surged in recent years.

Transport and Logistics Minister Alemu Sime (PhD) highlighted Ethiopia's significant progress in implementing green initiatives and its commitment to green energy transformation. Leveraging untapped renewable energy resources, Ethiopia aspires to lead in the green economy and enhance its transportation ecosystem, reflecting its dedication to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and achieving a sustainable future.

Opinion

Ethiopia needs to exploit her untapped creative arts resources for economic dev't

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

Despite the huge creative arts resources that have come down to the country from prehistoric and historic eras, Ethiopia has so far failed to gain any benefit from these resources, some of which are almost neglected. The writer of this article wishes to dwell upon this important but relatively neglected sector. First, it is useful to expound on what exactly the creative arts of a country.

Creative arts encompass a wide range of artistic disciplines that involve imagination, creativity, and expression. These arts are often categorized into various forms, including visual, performing, and literary arts, or tangible and intangible resources.

Visual arts focus on creating works that are primarily visual in nature. This includes **Painting**: Using pigments to create images on surfaces like canvas, paper, or walls. **Sculpture**: Crafting three-dimensional works using materials such as stone, metal, or clay. **Photography**: Capturing images through cameras as a form of artistic expression. **Drawing**: Creating images with pencils, ink, or other media on a two-dimensional surface. **Graphic Design**: Combining text and images to create visual content for communication, often used in digital media. **Performing arts** involve live presentations where artists express creativity through performance. These include: **Theater**: Acting, playwriting, and production in live stage performances. **Music**: Composing, playing instruments, singing, and conducting musical pieces. **Dance**: Artistic movement performed to music or as a means of expression. **Film and Cinema**: The creation of moving images for entertainment, education, or artistic expression.

Literary arts involve the use of written or spoken word to convey ideas, stories, and emotions. This includes: **Poetry**: Expressive writing that often follows a rhythmic and symbolic structure. **Fiction**: Creating narratives through short stories, novels, and other forms of storytelling. **Non-fiction**: Writing about real events, people, and facts, including essays, biographies, and journalism. **Drama**: Writing scripts for performance, either in theater or film.

Applied arts focus on functional objects that are also aesthetically pleasing. This includes: **Architecture**: Designing and constructing buildings and other structures. **Fashion Design**: Creating clothing and accessories. **Industrial Design**: Designing products for mass production, blending function and aesthetics. **Interior Design**: Enhancing indoor spaces to make them more functional and visually appealing.

Multimedia arts involve combining various forms of artistic expression, often integrating technology. This includes: **Digital Art**: Creating art through digital tools like graphic software. **Animation**: The process of creating moving images through illustrations or computer-generated models. **Video Art**: Artistic work that uses video as its primary medium.

Craft arts include arts that involve making objects by hand, such as: **Pottery**: Crafting objects from clay often fired in a kiln to harden. **Weaving**: Creating fabrics or textiles by interlacing threads. **Jewelry Making**: Designing and crafting wearable art from metals, stones, and other materials.

The culinary arts involve the creative preparation of food. It includes cooking, baking, and food presentation in both artistic and functional ways.

Creative arts can play a significant role in promoting Ethiopia's national economy through various channels, enhancing cultural identity, tourism, and creating employment opportunities. Here's how creative arts contribute to economic growth:

Ethiopia's rich history, diverse cultures, and heritage make it a major attraction for cultural tourism. Arts like traditional music, dance, painting, sculpture, and crafts can help Ethiopia promote its cultural assets globally. Festivals, performances, and exhibitions draw international tourists, boosting the hospitality, retail, and service sectors. For example, the *Irreechaa* festival and traditional Ethiopian art forms have become vital tourism attractions.

Ethiopia's unique traditional musical instruments that are used on secular and religious events include *kebero*, traditional drum, *negarit* which is used for communication purposes, *kirar*, *begena*, tom, string instruments, *zumbara* and *washint* which are wind instruments and a host of other musical instruments used by various ethnic groups in the country.

Traditional costumes made from cotton fabrics are also part of the creative works of weavers in the country, depicting colorful traditional outfits for children, women, and young persons across the country with a colorful mix of styles among various ethnic groups in Ethiopia.

By promoting cultural tourism, Ethiopia can increase foreign exchange earnings, create jobs in tourism and hospitality, and support local artisans.

The creative arts sector provides a platform for artists, designers, and performers in Ethiopia to showcase their talents. This contributes to direct job creation in fields like film, theater, music, and visual arts. Ethiopia's emerging film industry, for example, has seen growth and employs many young creatives.

The sector fosters entrepreneurship and innovation, encouraging small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in creative industries, which in turn supports broader economic diversification.

Ethiopian creative products, such as handicrafts, traditional textiles, and contemporary art, have the potential to access international markets. These goods embody Ethiopia's cultural identity and uniqueness, which can drive demand globally, providing an additional source of revenue

Exporting traditional art and fashion increases Ethiopia's foreign exchange earnings and strengthens the country's

global image, positioning it as a cultural hub in Africa.

Through visual art, music, and literature, creative arts contribute to shaping Ethiopia's national narrative, promoting unity, and reflecting its diverse cultural heritage. This helps build a strong sense of identity, which is crucial for social cohesion, political stability, and economic progress.

By enhancing national unity, creative arts contribute to a stable environment that attracts investment and fosters long-term economic development.

Ethiopia's film industry, though still developing, has seen growth and has the potential to become a significant economic driver. By producing films that capture the country's unique stories, culture, and history, Ethiopia can attract local and international audiences.

As the film industry grows, it generates revenue through box office sales, streaming services, and international film festivals. It also creates opportunities for related industries, including media, marketing, and education.

Ethiopia can use its creative arts to promote soft power on the global stage. Music, literature, and art can be powerful tools for diplomatic engagement, showcasing Ethiopia's culture and values. Initiatives like cultural exchange programs or global art exhibitions can foster goodwill and strengthen international relations.

Strengthened diplomatic relations can lead to trade agreements, foreign investment, and enhanced international cooperation that benefits Ethiopia's economy. What other measures can the government take in promoting creative arts among the youth in the country? The author would like to suggest the following.

On the other hand, Ethiopia needs to devise various projects to provide favorable conditions for Ethiopian women and men who are actively engaged in the promotion of creative arts. Affirmative actions need to be developed for senior professionals of creative arts and improve their livelihood.

The professional associations established by men of arts should also be supported by the public and concerned government stakeholder's so that they can mobilize their members for more creative works across all sectors of the arts.

The universities in the country and all public secondary schools need to provide trainings in arts like music, paintings, poetic competitions and other forms of creative works.

The author is of the opinion that the Ministry of Education and Ministry of culture can develop ways and means in which school children and university students can have the opportunity to develop their natural gifts in the area of creative arts.

Ethiopia can promote creative arts among its youth through the following strategies:

Creating local arts centers where youth can access workshops, exhibitions, and performance spaces will help foster

creativity. These centers could offer courses in visual arts, music, theater, dance, and digital media. Expanding the curriculum to include creative arts subjects in schools and higher institutions will encourage students to explore artistic fields. This can be further enhanced by organizing school competitions and festivals to celebrate the arts.

By providing grants, mentorship programs, and resources to young artists, Ethiopia can enable the youth to start their own art-related ventures. Encouraging community-based art projects can also help develop local talent.

Ethiopia can harness digital platforms to showcase youth talents. Social media, online galleries, and music-sharing platforms are great avenues to promote arts globally, making creative arts more accessible to a broader audience.

Partnering with local and international cultural organizations can offer youth more exposure and opportunities to connect with experienced artists, curators, and producers. This can be done through artist exchanges, internships, and collaborative projects.

Annual arts and cultural festivals can provide platforms for young artists to display their work. National and regional art festivals would encourage youth participation and cultural exchange.

Offering scholarships and incentives for youth pursuing careers in the creative arts can help remove barriers to entry and motivate talent development in Ethiopia.

These steps can help foster a vibrant creative industry that contributes to the country's cultural identity and economic growth.

Ethiopia lacks adequate infrastructure facilities that could cater to the promotion of creative arts in the country. The nation lacks national galleries and theaters that could be used to present various musical and other products of creative arts. The country has huge potential in creative arts, but there are numerous challenges that need to be resolved to display them to the public. For instance, there is only one music school in the country and another school of fine arts under Addis Ababa University.

There needs to be a strong link between the country's tourism industry and the development of creative arts. Workable strategies need to be developed to promote tourism by using products of creative arts in the country.

Safeguarding legal rights on patents on products of creative arts is very important for the quality of the arts and the benefits that producers can get from them. Developing and promoting creative arts exhibitions on the most important international art exhibitions and trade fairs can be organized in an integrated manner to build the image of the country at regional and global levels.

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

Business & Economy

Entrepreneurship for buttressing economic growth

BY MENGESHA AMARE

Entrepreneurship can promote economic growth, even if its benefits are sometimes overhyped. Entrepreneurship is often cited as a major engine of economic growth in many countries of the world. But the actual picture is more complicated.

Entrepreneurship is frequently credited as a major driver of economic growth, spurring transformation, the creation of new markets, innovation, and building wealth. Entrepreneurs are often key to developing ideas and solutions to problems while creating new products.

Cognizant of this fact, *The Ethiopian Herald* had a stay with Dereje Bekele, an economist graduated from Addis Ababa University, to seek some sorts of information about the significance of entrepreneurship in due course of supporting the economic growth.

He said, “Entrepreneurship or the activity of starting and running a business is a vital ingredient of economic growth and development. Entrepreneurs contribute to innovation, and they are central to dynamic socio-economic competition and broader economic dynamism.

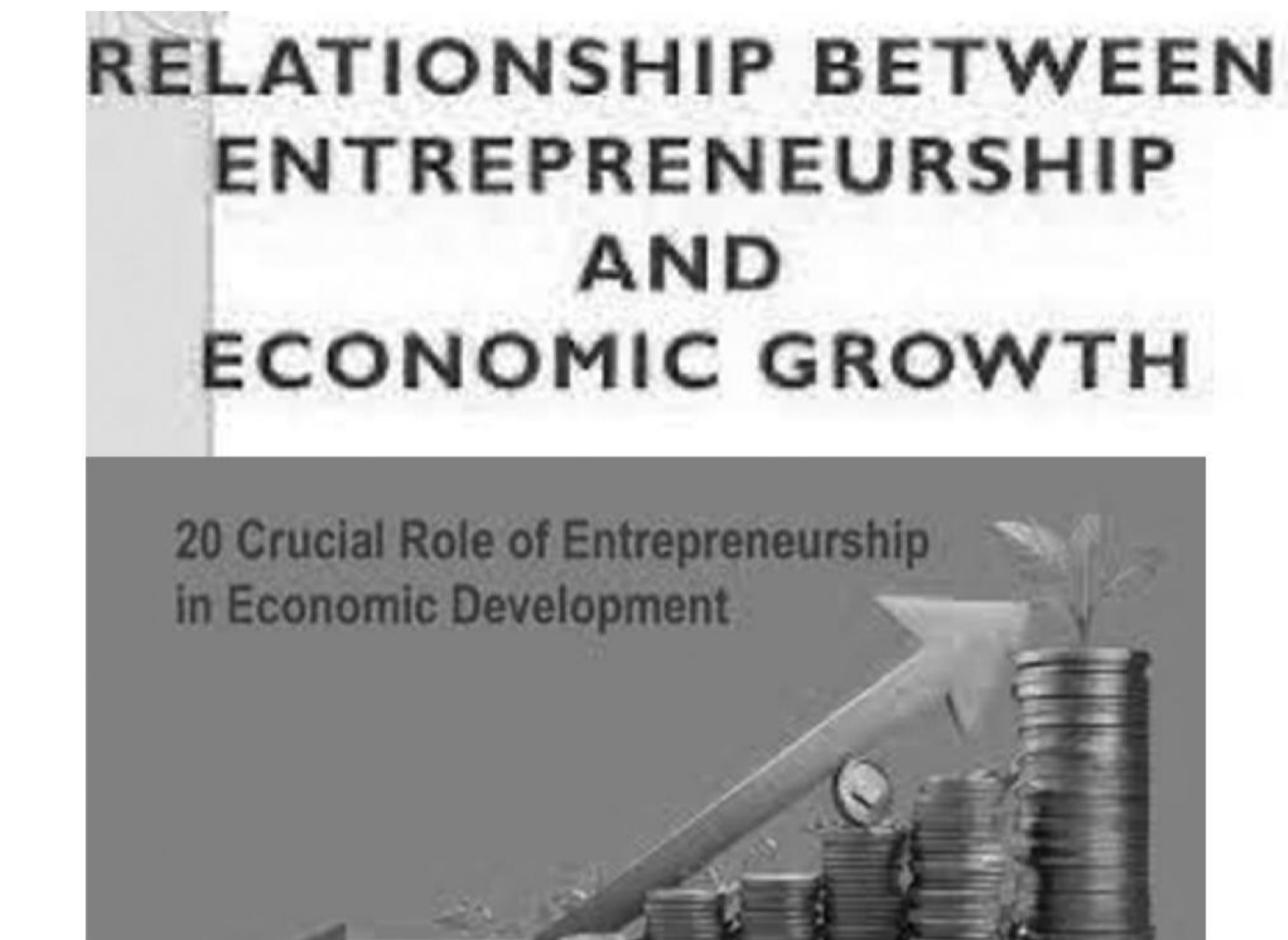
Yes, entrepreneurship has had a firm link with economic growth, and it is found that particularly opportunity-driven entrepreneurship is positively linked with growth. Intuitively, big technological advances in the manufacturing sector create a lot of opportunities for innovative entrepreneurs whereas other entrepreneurs gradually adapt to the slower pace of technological progress in the services sector, he opined.

He said, “An increase in opportunity-driven entrepreneurship activity rate from the mean level of the developing economies to the mean level of advanced economies, together with a standard deviation increase in the share of manufacturing’s value-added in GDP,” he added.

As to Dereje, entrepreneurship, or the activity of starting and running a business, is a vital ingredient of economic growth and development. Entrepreneurs contribute greatly to innovation. Innovative entrepreneurs are the principal agents of the new products, services, technologies, firms, and industries replacing existing products, services, technologies, firms, and industries. The contribution of entrepreneurship to the economy should not be confined to transformational entrepreneurs.

Entrepreneurs are adept at commercializing new technology into products and services that are useful for consumers. The distinction between everyday entrepreneurs and innovative entrepreneurs is not always clear-cut. For instance, creative street food vendors who invent uniquely delicious dishes become influential restaurateurs. Nevertheless, a relatively small group of highly productive entrepreneurs account for the lion’s share of entrepreneurship’s contribution to the economy. The vital role of entrepreneurship in economic growth and development, combined with its neglect in economic research, is a powerful motive for delving into entrepreneurship in developing Africa, Ethiopia. Entrepreneurship holds the key to the emergence and development of a vibrant private sector, an indispensable ingredient of sustained growth.

He said, “The advent of digital entrepreneurship in recent years means that now is an especially opportune time to analyze why individuals start new businesses. Information and communication technology (ICT), or digital technology, has drastically



reduced the cost of starting a business since it reduces the need for brick-and-mortar stores and other physical facilities.”

However, good digital infrastructure alone does not automatically invigorate entrepreneurship. To become an entrepreneur or not is fundamentally an individual decision. Talented individuals who become game changing innovative entrepreneurs have plenty of opportunities as highly paid workers, he underscored.

As to Dereje, the enabling entrepreneurial ecosystem is constantly evolving. In recent years, organizational innovations such as venture accelerators and crowd funding improved the entrepreneurial climate. Entrepreneurship is a source of innovation and change, and as such spurs improvements in productivity and economic competitiveness. Entrepreneurship is closely associated with knowledge and flexibility, two factors that have gained new significance as a source of competitiveness in an increasingly globalized world economy.

As to him, the entrepreneur has been a fundamental agent in most production, distribution and growth theories. The firm of the innovative entrepreneur will, consequently, grow through the dual process of taking market share from existing suppliers and increasing overall demand for the products offered in the market.

He further elucidated that the greatest significance of entrepreneurship is to help identify and develop the managerial capacities of entrepreneurs. Obviously, entrepreneurship promotes economic growth, provides access to goods and services, and improves the overall standard of living. Many entrepreneurs also make a positive impact on their communities and improve their well-being by catering to underserved areas and developing environment-friendly products.

Entrepreneur is recurrently credited as major driver of economic growth, spurring transformation, the creation of new markets, innovation, and building wealth. Entrepreneurs are often key to developing ideas and solutions to problems while creating new products, he added.

According to Dereje, entrepreneurship helps improve the per capita income of a country by generating new job opportunities. It plays a significant role in increasing Gross National Product. The concept of entrepreneurship encompasses actions undertaken by both established enterprises and emerging businesses. Traditionally, entrepreneurship is categorized into four main types; small businesses, scalable startups, large companies and social entrepreneurs. Entrepreneurship is the process of starting and managing a business, usually to introduce a new product or service to the market:

He further said that entrepreneurs look for new business opportunities and act on them, develop a plan, create a business structure, hire staff, and develop strategies for financing and marketing, and entrepreneurship involves risk-taking and decision-making, driving innovation.

Unquestionably, entrepreneurs are innovators who create new products, services, or business models for solving problems and contributing to society by boosting wealth and employment. They are often characterized by creativity, resilience, and a problem-solving mindset. They are also leaders who have the freedom to build the company, products, and team culture they want, he underscored.

“Entrepreneurship can start as a small business, but the goal is to capture market share and seek high profits. Entrepreneurship is a general, blanket term related to starting a business, but its precise definition has long been a matter of debate among scholars and policymakers,” he added.

An aspiring entrepreneur actively seeks a particular business venture and it is the entrepreneur who assumes the greatest amount of risk associated with the project with a view to benefitting most if the project is a success, he added.

Responding to the question imposed to him stating, ‘How do entrepreneurs fuel economic growth?’ Dereje stated that innovation and entrepreneurship undeniably contribute to economic growth, making them a particular area of interest for economists and policymakers everywhere. For one thing,

growth from entrepreneurial activity doesn’t occur evenly across an economy.

He further elucidated that one interesting way to look at entrepreneurship is to divide it into two broad categories: necessity entrepreneurship and opportunity entrepreneurship. The former is the launching of a business by people who lack other opportunities, and the latter is the creation of an enterprise in response to a new or previously overlooked opportunity.

Citing the sayings of scholars, Dereje stated that in countries where entrepreneurial activity is largely in the form of necessity entrepreneurship, it can be a signal that the economy isn’t creating enough jobs or wage opportunities for workers. It may be connected to slow economic growth or lagging economic development overall. As for him, necessity entrepreneurship can also be a side hustle for someone who is trying to make ends meet or a way to meet their non-economic needs and goals.

The level of economic development of a country can also affect whether entrepreneurship will lead to greater economic growth there. In the 20th century, driven by the decline in manufacturing and the shift toward service businesses, industrialized market economies in later stages of economic development—those countries saw a rise in entrepreneurship, which reversed the previous trend in their economies.

Dereje exhorted his idea, stating that businesses in general focus on existing products and services, while entrepreneurs look to introduce new ones. However, small business owners can be entrepreneurial in their own way, and entrepreneurs may end up as small business owners if their idea catches on. An entrepreneur is someone who works within a larger company; typically they don’t own it, perhaps, to foster entrepreneurial ideas and innovation. Definitely, entrepreneurship can be a good source of economic growth, and entrepreneurs often have access to greater resources than independent entrepreneurs without a company behind them.

Planet Earth

Ethiopia-China climate cooperation serves as model for global climate collaboration

BY EPHREM ANDARGACHEW

Global collaboration on climate change is critical for solving the complex and interlinked difficulties that climate change presents. Despite their commitment, states around the world adopt diverse ways, including international cooperation, to confront the challenge of climate change.

Among other things, world leaders reached an agreement on the Paris Agreement in 2015. This historic agreement, signed by nearly all countries, intends to keep global warming to 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, with efforts to restrict the increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Countries make nationally determined contributions (NDCs) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and are encouraged to raise their targets over time.

Besides, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which was founded in 1992, is critical because it offers a framework for international climate cooperation by facilitating talks and conferences (COP meetings) to monitor progress and make decisions.

These and other bilateral and multilateral agreements are critical for assisting developing countries in financing climate mitigation and adaptation programs. It is also critical to raise funds from developed countries to support initiatives that reduce emissions and increase resilience. It is also a key to transfer technology and knowledge from developed countries to developing countries and to ensure that all nations have access to the tools required to combat climate change.

International cooperation and climate change agreements are also important because they establish capacity-building initiatives and scientific collaboration to address regional cooperation, such as the African Union's Agenda 2063, which includes climate resilience and sustainable development goals in its framework.

In general, making significant progress in reducing the effects of preparing for climate change requires international cooperation. Although there have been notable advancements thanks to international agreements and initiatives, continued cooperation, dedication, and creativity will be essential to successfully tackle this urgent global issue.

In light of these realities, China and Ethiopia undertook bilateral discussions on climate change mitigation. The discussion coincided with the COP29 summit in Baku, Azerbaijan. Because issues related to climate change need global cooperation and discussion since



Fitsum Assefa (PhD)

they are cross-cutting global challenges.

Moreover, Ethiopia and China have formed a diverse relationship over time, marked by political, economic, and cultural links. Specifically, their economic collaboration requires environmental conservation and preservation. China's investment exists throughout the country. China's involvement in Ethiopia is significant, with Chinese corporations investing considerably in infrastructure projects such as roads, trains, and industrial parks.

Furthermore, the Addis Ababa-Djibouti Railway, built by a Chinese corporation, is a prime example of this investment. Ethiopia also plays an important role in China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which aims to improve global trade routes and infrastructure development. This program resulted in increasing Chinese investment in Ethiopian infrastructure. As a result, collaboration between Ethiopia and China is critical in combating climate change.

Ethiopia's Minister of Planning and Development, Fitsum Assefa (PhD) stated that Ethiopia has been taking steps to lessen the negative effects of climate change and that cooperation between Ethiopia and China is crucial in this regard. She also highlighted the accomplishments of the Green Legacy Initiative, which has planted more than 40 billion trees since 2019, increasing Ethiopia's forest cover to 23.6% while generating employment and improving community life.

Besides, to meet its energy needs, Ethiopia is working on renewable and green energy. Ethiopia's renewable energy exports to Kenya, Sudan, and Djibouti in addition to meeting its own demand. These are significant initiatives to promote regional green integration. Therefore, collaboration between China and Ethiopia on environmental matters is essential to strengthening the existing



Liu Zhenmin

one and to start new climate change mitigation programs.

China's Special Envoy on Climate Change, Liu Zhenmin, reaffirmed China's commitment to low-carbon emissions and green growth through the Belt and Road Initiative. This involves joint initiatives to further global climate goals with Ethiopia and other countries. He continued by saying that China and Ethiopia are working together to advance the Paris Agreement and serve as a model for global climate cooperation.

Indeed, Ethiopia and China have collaborated in a variety of ways to combat climate change, reflecting their shared goals for sustainable development, economic growth, and environmental protection. Both countries pledged to collaborate on environmental protection, sustainable development, and climate change mitigation. China has been a key partner in Ethiopia's renewable energy sector, notably hydropower development. Projects such as the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) are intended to generate significant renewable energy, reducing dependency on fossil fuels and helping to mitigate climate change.

More importantly, Chinese businesses have contributed to Ethiopia's energy diversification and sustainable practices by investing in solar and wind energy projects. Another area of collaboration between these two nations is the sharing of clean technologies. Ethiopia has benefited from clean technology transfers from China, which can increase Ethiopia's ability to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This covers innovations in sustainable farming methods, energy efficiency, and renewable energy.

Once Chinese Embassy Minister Counselor Shen Qinmin told local media that the bilateral cooperation between Ethiopia and China was at a new height. Their ties have been further cemented with the all-weather strategic partnership.

He noted that diplomatic collaboration is expanding dramatically in terms of political and economic diplomacy, commerce, investment, and people-to-people relations. Their relationship has reached a new level of strategic partnership, strengthening the two countries' overall ties. China collaborates closely with Ethiopia in agriculture, the digital economy, manufacturing, and industry, among other areas.

He emphasized that the growing number of Chinese investors in Ethiopia on an annual basis is a sign of the two countries' solid partnership. According to him, the continued bilateral connections are another indication of the improved Ethio-China partnership, which also calls for environmental cooperation to slow down climate change.

Without a doubt, strong economic cooperation and reciprocal political backing characterize Ethiopia-China ties. These have been made visible by their ongoing collaboration across all industries. Another crucial area of collaboration between the two nations is the discussion of climate change. In particular, Ethiopia's and China's climate change collaboration is varied and includes capacity building, technological transfer, financial investment, and cooperative involvement in global initiatives.

The collaboration between Ethiopia and China is critical to meet climate change mitigation goals while promoting economic development and resilience to climate change shocks. As both countries face the difficulties of climate change, their collaboration is expected to evolve to meet new issues and opportunities in the field of sustainability. Their dedication to combating climate change is thus critical, not just for implementing the Paris Agreement but also for setting an example of international climate cooperation.

Art & Culture



Can't go to sleep

BY TSION YEHUALA

My heart is wet by my tears
 My soul is filled with a lot of fears
 I get worse every day
 I got no happy day
 I'm empty inside
 I wish I could just hide
 But how? How do I get peace
 When nothing is at ease
 I try to hide my pain
 And start to count one to ten
 To get a good night sleep
 But my eyes don't have a zip
 My pain is really deep
 And I can't go to sleep
 But still, I don't give up
 I try to fill the gap
 I have hope in my heart
 So I'll pray every day
 Cause I know God will soon clear my way.

Stopping by woods on a snowy evening

BY ROBERT FROST

Whose woods these are I think I know.
 His house is in the village though;
 He will not see me stopping here
 To watch his woods fill up with snow.
 My little horse must think it queer
 To stop without a farmhouse near



Between the woods and frozen lake
 The darkest evening of the year.

He gives his harness bells a shake
 To ask if there is some mistake.
 The only other sound's the sweep
 Of easy wind and downy flake.
 The woods are lovely, dark and deep,
 But I have promises to keep,
 And miles to go before I sleep,
 And miles to go before I sleep.

Reconciliation in hell

BY ALEM KIDANE

Your imperfection enticed me
 Your delicacy melted my heart
 Full of sin and blemish, I fell in love with you.
 Your pride disgraced my honor
 I withered like a dead flower before you
 You spit your venom and spite at my face,
 I succumbed to your impudence.
 You captured my heart and squeezed blood out of it
 You ground my audacity and snorted it like a drug.
 Filled with depravity, you bewitched

me
 I fell in love with you.
 I cracked, like an ancient wall
 Before your profane presence
 You are as hopeless as life itself but you are my faith,
 You are not worthy of worth but my being values you
 With your flame all burned out, I fell in love with you
 Having washed out my life, you left
 I lost myself in you.
 I looked for you with tiger eyes; a day, a month, a year
 I sniffed around the earth like a hungry wolf, to locate your scent

My ears were pulled up like a cat in case I heard your strides
 I walked and walked, I ran and ran,
 But I couldn't find you
 Then I found someone who said you were gone for good
 You left the world with displeasure and that displeased me.
 But I want you to know, when I depart this life,
 I long to come to hell...so I can be with you
 Then you will see me for who I was and Be satisfied.
 And that... will satisfy me.

Desire seared with fire

BY ALEM HAILU G/KRISTOS

Though the sun
 Is due to sink
 Behind the hill,
 Also it is high time
 To foot the bill,
 When "Ran out of time
 He needs
 A sprinted finish! "
 Mockery is atop
 On the rumor's mill,
 As if time stood still,
 In my lovesick heart
 There is a hole to fill,
 A hole resulting from
 Unanswered algebraic
 Love's drill
 Once, smote by a girl
 With charms dressed
 To kill
 And ironically

The sole physician
 To prescribe for
 The sickness
 The right pill.
 Still the eye-opener
 And bitter-sweet love
 Not to outgrow
 I have the will,
 Even with the knowledge
 As her heart
 Dwells elsewhere
 My chance to get her
 Is almost nill.
 Despite she is a mom
 On the other end of
 The ocean
 To her I give
 Extra-normal attention.
 To her I give
 Extra-normal attention.
 As she is seared
 On my heart



With fire
 Stop shall not I
 My desire!
 Forget can't I
 Her voice act and attire.

Why, why, why
 Someone
 Or some moment
 I fail to forget
 Till I die!

Society

Expanding public libraries' access towards nurturing an informed, knowledgeable generation

BY TEWODROS KASSA

Currently, libraries are playing a crucial role in shaping the minds and values of the younger generation, helping to instill a sense of patriotism and national pride. These institutions serve as a hub for knowledge, learning, and community engagement, creating a space where individuals can explore their identity and cultural heritage. Such libraries also contribute to the country's social and intellectual development.

That is why countries with better access to libraries will have better opportunities to promote reading habits. Thus, libraries serve as a gateway to knowledge and information, offering a diverse range of resources such as books, magazines, newspapers, and digital archives. By providing access to a wealth of educational materials, these institutions empower individuals to expand their horizons, deepen their understanding of the world, and engage critically with societal issues.

In Ethiopia, especially in urban areas, public libraries are playing a vital role in promoting literacy, fostering a culture of reading, and encouraging lifelong learning among citizens of all ages.

One of the key roles of public libraries is to instill a sense of patriotism and national pride in the younger generation. Through a curated collection of books, exhibits, and programs that highlight Ethiopia's rich history, culture, and achievements, these institutions help foster a deep connection to the country and its heritage. By promoting an understanding of Ethiopia's past struggles and triumphs, public libraries inspire citizens to take pride in their identity and contribute positively to the development of their nation.

The Ethiopian National Archives and Library is among the leading public library in the country that empowered numerous citizens to obtain important print, audio, and visual documents freely since its establishment.

In addition to this, the other library that stands out for its commitment to nurturing a patriotic generation is the *Abrehot* Library.

During the inauguration ceremony of the library Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) said that *Abrehot* (enlightenment) Library is one of Africa's largest public libraries, which can accommodate over 3,500 readers at a time.

"The *Abrehot* Library is the key to unlocking the nation's many untold histories and facilitating ways to create wealth. Knowledge is the way out of ignorance. Ignorance is darkness, and one who is in darkness cannot think rationally. So, the library is a great opportunity to get out of ignorance. We can prosper if we lay the groundwork for our children to understand our history and the meaning of freedom. The key to this is knowledge," he



said.

Recently, the Premier stated said the *Abrehot* Library is actively working to fulfill its objective of developing wisely skilled youth.

Abrehot, meaning "enlightenment", was established to enlighten generations.

Its facade is inscribed with the words "wisdom" in 18 languages, symbolizing its commitment to this mission.

Moreover, the *Abrehot* Library is actively working to fulfill its objective of developing wisely skilled youth. "The young people I met today at *Abrehot* are engaged in promising endeavors such as robotics and application innovation, and they deserve our encouragement," the PM said on a social media post.

He further underlined that the next generation must continue to strengthen their skills in areas like AI, coding, and cyber security, aligning with Ethiopia's development goals.

Meanwhile, users of the library express the outstanding contributions of *Abrehot* Library in attracting like-minded youths to pass their time together in the library. The availability of state-of-the-art public library is a big milestone in the efforts of building a patriotic generations that develop the habit of reading rather than other bad habits.

Having a well-established public library is big resource that all citizens will access freely towards shaping their lives. Thus, the presence of well-furnished public libraries should be expanded throughout the country to address more readers.

Accordingly, public libraries serve as a hub for community engagement, bringing people together to participate in cultural events, workshops, and discussions. By providing a space for dialogue and exchange, these institutions create opportunities for individuals to connect with one another, share ideas, and celebrate their shared heritage. Thus, public libraries play a crucial role in preserving the

country's cultural traditions, languages, and customs, ensuring that future generations have access to their unique heritage.

So far, expanding public libraries will serve as platforms to empower youth and fostering civic responsibility among the next generation of leaders. Through innovative programs, mentorship opportunities, and educational resources, these institutions help young people develop critical thinking skills, leadership qualities, and a sense of social responsibility. By encouraging active citizenship and community involvement, public libraries inspire young Ethiopians to become informed, engaged, and empowered members of the society.

By offering a wide range of materials on various subjects, public libraries help individuals gain a more comprehensive understanding of their country's history, culture, and values. This exposure to different ideas and opinions can foster critical thinking skills and promote a deeper appreciation for Ethiopia's diverse heritage.

Another essential role of public libraries is to foster a love for reading and learning among individuals. By offering a wide selection of books and materials, public libraries encourage people to explore new ideas, expand their knowledge, and discover the joy of reading. This love for reading can have a profound impact on individuals' intellectual development and can help shape their values and beliefs.

In sum, public libraries play a crucial role in nurturing a patriotic generation and promoting national pride among citizens. By providing access to knowledge, fostering cultural preservation, and empowering youth, such institutions contribute to the social, intellectual, and moral development of the country. As pillars of education, enlightenment, and community engagement, public libraries serve as invaluable resources for cultivating a sense of unity, identity, and pride among every citizen.

Law & Politics

Finding better conflict resolution mechanisms in Africa

BY EYUEL KIFLU

To effectively handle many problems affecting its member countries, the AU is persistently seeking to build internal capacities as well as achieve non-interference in national affairs. The continent is facing diverse challenges that have been either directly or indirectly shaped by external forces, making it a region of turmoil and trouble.

The AU acknowledges that there are often external actors that complicate existing issues that affect the sovereignty and territoriality of member nations. Therefore, the organization seeks to create frameworks and policies to support the internal structures of governance, conflict management, and peace in the African countries. Thus, through the bolstering of these internal capacities, the AU intends to enable its member states to handle their problems more efficiently and autonomously.

Nonetheless, in its unrelenting quest, the African Union interacts with other stakeholders from the national level government, civil society organizations, and regional levels so as to embrace a coherent conflict management approach.

In addition, a concern for the safety of member states is also supported through its efforts designed towards peace, security, and economic growth. In this way, the AU is perpetuating the essential organizational role in the Africa's endeavor toward peace with the focus on each nation's needs and goals.

Despite the influx of internal and external pressure, the African Union has remained focused on the promotion of state sovereignty and state integrity. By these efforts, the AU not only seeks to address existing conflicts but also to build a united and strong Africa for the future.

In this regard the Political Affairs, Peace and Security Department of the African Union Commission are commemorating the 4th African Union Awareness Week on Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD) from 18 to 24 November 2024 at the AUC Headquarter.

The weeklong commemoration has continued to capture an increasing attention and engagement garnered from AU Member States, Regional Economic Communities /Regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs), AU Partners and civil society across Africa.

The theme for the 4th PCRD Awareness Week, "Charting the Path Forward: Collaborative Strategies for Effective PCRD Policy Implementation," underscored the importance of a unified and strategic approach in advancing post-conflict reconstruction and development.



Bankole Adeoye

Bankole reaffirmed the AU's dedication to peace and security on the continent, emphasizing the imperative of addressing conflicts through African-led initiatives

On the mid of this week AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security Department, Ambassador Bankole Adeoye told the need for a more innovative and sustainable approach to conflict resolution in the continent during his briefed for media.

According to Bankole on the conflict zones and the efforts being made by the African Union Commission to find peaceful resolution of the conflicts he highlighted building and supporting public democratic institutions that respond to the needs of Africans.

The Commissioner noted "we are witnessing awareness week on Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development simply by Advancing and sustaining peace building on the continent."

Noting the current recent development in Sudan, South Sudan, Libya, Somalia, Mozambique, Chad Basin to Sahel region, he said, "...we have to deal with this crisis and conflict in a more sustainable and innovative way."

"As we go into the strategic planning for the African Union Commission, we are looking at how we better manage and prevent conflict while at the same time looking specifically at building strong institutions for durable democracy and effective governance on our continent," he added.

We have invested more in building peace at all levels, the commissioner elaborated.

"We have just started the implementation of the newly revised African Union policy on post conflict reconstruction and development. We want to see more of peace building and work. We want to share African experiences and expertise," the commissioner indicated.

The post-conflict, reconstruction and

development are very essential to many aspects, he said, adding we have added three new pillars to the policy dealing with youth inclusion, environmental sustainability and child protection.

On other hand, he added that we continuously work in our department on promoting democracy, observing elections this year, who we have in the record of almost 15 elections held, of which 14 have so far been observed. According to him, most of the elections have been peaceful this year.

However, he noted that while democracy is being strengthened, there is also a concerning resurgence of military rule in certain regions, underscoring the need for continued vigilance and action.

The PCRD Awareness Week was adopted by the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC) in 2021, and has gained significant recognition and prominence, marking its fourth consecutive year as an official event of the African Union.

The other Headache issues of the continent which is aforementioned the commissioner said "We condemn, without hesitation or ambiguity, any external interference in our continent."

He highlighted the negative impact such interferences have on conflict situations, particularly in regions like the Sahel and Sudan.

Bankole expressed the need for a unified African approach to defence, aiming for full implementation of existing policies to enhance collective security.

The commissioner also emphasised the AU's commitment to promoting African solutions to African problems. He condemned the involvement of foreign forces in Libya, aligning with the United Nations Security Council's resolutions, and stressed that geopolitical interests are emerging as threats to the continent.

"Our goal is to foster African solidarity and ensure that conflicts are resolved peacefully," he stated, underscoring the importance of equitable representation in the UN Security Council. The AU aims for meaningful reform in the UN body, advocating for a more effective presence at the international level.

In conclusion, Bankole reaffirmed the AU's dedication to peace and security on the continent, emphasizing the imperative of addressing conflicts through African-led initiatives.

The union is working to promote peace on the continent and advocate for political dialogue over conflict. Regarding Sudan, the bloc emphasizes the need for an immediate ceasefire. According to the commissioner, the organization invested 3.5 million dollars last year to address security problems on the continent.

BY EPHREM ENDALE

Between you & me

Save Them from the Tsunami

Defending your point of view is of course a plus. It's what you live it, it's what you think would work for the world, it's what you think the world has been losing all this time. Of course that doesn't mean everything you painted as gold-plated might not appear as such for others. There would be others who would vehemently argue that your ways don't work and even claim that they might be the stupidest ideas anyone ever came up with. Well if only the rhetoric of the other side makes you drop your guard than maybe your ideas weren't firmly rooted.

Well, who am I to say that! But while you stick to your own ideas while trying to drag face down in the dust without any clear reasons as to your opposition well that doesn't give you good reputation. Yes they say being tolerant and respectful to the ideas of others is the civilized way of doing things.

Recently a friend who phones me from somewhere in the States tells me a very preposterous and shocking story. It was about a four-some group of friends who he says were the perfect team to which one could refer to as the perfect example of what real friendship could be. They had quite a lot of years behind them having immigrated more than a decade and half or so back. They were loyal voters with three of them loyal democrats and one a loyal Republican. He says they always enjoyed arguing about their political choices. (Just musing, do our compatriots over there have that much spare time to argue about politics, which at times sound as 'mysterious'

as a Robert Ludlum bestseller, in a society where you're supposed to sweat profusely for every dollar and also in these economically challenging times to argue about their political leanings?)

So this time around there was no reason to expect anything out of the ordinary to happen. It did happen. To the shock of those close to members of the group, the group practically falls apart under their very eyes. The story was that after the results were announced they were engaged in those lively discussions and arguments. The guy who told me the story says there was no clear info as to how things went off the rails and which side was in the wrong; but things descended into complete chaos two against one! But the two democrat fans seemed to take things more personally now than they ever did and the four-letter words soon dominated the discussions to the point where one of the two jumps up and puts his hands around someone who was not thier adversary; one of the best friends! They say in reflexive move to defend himself he catches his attacker on his jaw with a really hard punch. Other Ethiopians who witnessed the violet actions get in between and separate the two and everybody goes home.

Now the guy who tells me the story and others who were quite close to the group members decide to get into things and mend fences. At first they thought it might be an accident which happened at the spur of the moment said none of them really wanted to go into physical altercation. In fact they were among the most

reserved guys and no one ever thought they would throw punches against each other for that matter!

It was not to be at all easy. They later learned that the time of the chaos they were discussing about the plans to deport millions of immigrants. So what has this to do with them as they had been in the States for a decade and half and even longer? None of them wanted to talk until one of the two democrat fans, perhaps unwittingly blurted something which sent the shockwaves through the peacemaker friends. He says something like the other guy was celebrating because so many undocumented illegal immigrants would be departed and there would be more work opportunities. So why should this infuriate him! Well here is where the real explosive was dropped. He yet doesn't have the legal papers. What? He has been there for so long and doesn't yet have the papers? Even the other democrat fan was shaken the bone! And they thought their friend was already an American citizen. And how come he voted when he didn't have his papers! Another shock was to come. He admits he was all through lying of going to the voting stations while in fact he never did! This friend tells me it was a heartbreaking story which sadden even the Republican fan who had the humility to apologize to his friend in the presence of other friends.

While this story would mean a lot to those who are out there facing uncountable challenges we have been hearing for long that the number of our compatriots over there without the legal

papers is not as little as we would have wished it to be. There are those who haven't stepped on whom ground even for decades. Many of them, so it said might not have the legal papers to allow them to make the return trip. Yes it's said not only to those who crossed over in more recent times even those who have been there for quite a long time could feel the heat. That was not the only worry. Even for those with legal papers, another friend tells me, bringing family members might be far more difficult.

Lately I've read Facebook posts calling for Ethiopian lawyers over there to come to the aid of their compatriots over there most of whom don't have the financial means to have legal representatives. Wouldn't that be the most humane things to do? Nothing could be more fulfilling than helping helpless country folks who find themselves in trouble but don't have the means to stand on their own two feet and face the challenges.

Even some back home are worried that their kin over there might be deported. It is not at all worry without reason. Few if any would know what would actually happen once the deportation campaign begins. If what we read and see on social media is anything to go by many even think that once the whole thing is set in motion it would be nothing less than a tsunami!

God help our compatriots! Save them from the tsunami!

Yes, Third World War could Happen!

Those of us who thought all the talk of a possible Third World War looming was nothing less than one of those conspiracy theories meant to scare the hell out every one of us. "How can any rational thinking persons with all the screws intact in their brains think there will be a World War in this age of far-reaching civilization?" It has been sometime since warnings of a possible world war began being voiced. Maybe, just maybe it seems the world has not been listening as keenly as it should have. The Ukraine/Russia war had all the signs of growing into more devastating episodes and the mainstream media was in 'don't see, don't hear, don't talk' mood when it came to the real issues of hows and whys of the conflict.

All the talk was about how the days of Putin were numbered, about how the Russian bear would be tamed, about the Ukrainians will turn all the tables and the world order would take a newer western-friendly stature. It seems politics in many countries especially the so-called free world taking all sorts of unexpected and in places probably unappealing detours the writing was already appearing on the walls that ours wasn't going to be that peaceful place we would like it to be. Politicians who seem to pose themselves as the newest trend setters, as the geniuses who claim they would put their respective nations on top of the rest of the world seemed to be setting all the scenes as they would like them to be. Their world view is so twisted and so arrogant they failed to see that their gung-ho type of approach would

take the world in the wrong direction which we should have avoided.

Now we're seeing the results of choosing the confrontational highway while the highway of peace is far less populated and calling for attention. It's sad, very sad. Looking back at things years down the line things were different. The very places where we hear war drums were the places calling for armed conflicts In Africa or elsewhere to be resolved peacefully. "Get your a*&%^ to the table and talk peace. How can you be so naive in the twenty-first century acting and thinking like medieval warlords!" And then the finger-wagging and warnings; "Talk peace or else you aren't going to get another cent for development projects or whatever!"

In fact the peacemakers were usually sent from the 'free and civilized' countries as the so-called third world countries don't have the humility to look after their own backyards. Why aren't they able to see the peacemakers who have all through kicking dust into the faces of so-called third world countries and their people embroiled in armed conflicts with "These people never listen when they are told to lift their fingers from the trigger!" So the question as to why these same places failed to talk peace themselves would remain one of the most intriguing riddles until the cat starts coming out of the bag a paw at a time. Something must have happened at that time when the expectation was the two sides were about to sign some sort of agreement and

suddenly it didn't happen!

No sooner has President Biden given the green light the Ukrainian brass didn't lose time as it started launching those lethal missiles against Russia. Frankly speaking that was what could have been termed as the escalation of the conflict because the Russians have been warning if such a move is taken it would be tantamount to kicking off the third world war. But the mainstream media failed to use that word and when the Russian missiles came in they started talking about escalation of the one thousand-plus days' war. By the way the Russians have confirmed they test-launched a new ballistic missile that would be very hard to intercept. Look while the type of weapon the Russians might use was another issue it wasn't lost on anyone that they would hit back, and try to hit back as hard as they can. And all this time the initial victims are Ukrainians who already have allegedly lost far more than a half a million of their people. That's insane! Though there still isn't any reliable information as to the loss of life on both sides repeated reports claim the Ukrainians have lost some six hundred thousand lives and Russia too has lost as many. And this is not the eighteenth century but the age of Artificial intelligence!

The question most of us were asking was why President Biden made this momentous decision especially at this time when nothing about this world seems to be normal! Of course this wasn't only about the horribly polarized

current American politics but could also turn into existential crisis for the rest of the world with Europe probably in the front rows. But even it was about American politics, a move designed to frustrate president-elect Donald Trump's peace plans as the conservatives put it, shouldn't the very interest of the American people most of whom don't seem to be having very good times precede everything? One of the outstanding promises of Mr. Trump was to ensure peace in the Ukraine/Russia, Israel/Hamas & Hezbollah wars. He promised that he'd avoid a Third World War. After all the very scary fact about the next global is that there would be no winners and hundreds of millions could lose their lives with no part of the word spared.

If what we're hearing is anything to go by things are likely to get worse. Ukraine having launched US ATACMS and UK Storm Shadow missiles and Russia hitting back with new conventional intermediate-range missile" which is said to be impossible to defend things might get really bad. The rhetoric coming for all sides does nothing to damp worries. Zelensky saying the launch of the new missile "...yet more proof that Russia has no interest in peace," and Putin warning, "Russia could attack military facilities of those countries which allowed their weapons to be used for this purpose," the world could only pray the worst would be avoided by any means.

Yes, Third World War could happen!

In Pictures

National Rehabilitation Commission commences DDR Program



National Rehabilitation Commission of Ethiopia officially started the disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) program on November 21, 2024. The first round, to be implemented for the coming four months, aims to reintegrate 75,000 former combatants in Tigray region. During the first day, some 320 combatants handover their armaments to join the rehabilitation centers.

AU, ENDF representatives attends the commencement of DDR



As the National Rehabilitation Commission (NRC) started the DDR program, the Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF) and the African Union (AU) representatives attended the program. The ENDF started receiving the armaments and the African Union attended the program to oversee the DDR

program through its Monitoring, Verification, and Compliance Mission to ensure compliance and transparency.

The DDR is part of the Pretoria Agreement designed to disarm and rehabilitate non-ENDF former combatants to ensure peace and security of the country.

Developing countries urged to reject 'bad deal' as Cop29 climate talks falter

Developing countries were being urged by civil society groups to reject "a bad deal" at the UN climate talks on Friday night, after rich nations refused to increase an "insulting" offer of finance to help them tackle the climate crisis.

The stage is set for a bitter row on Saturday over how much money poor countries should receive from the governments of the rich world, which have offered \$250bn a year by 2035 to help the poor shift to a low-carbon economy and adapt to the impacts of extreme weather.

That is "nowhere near enough" according to poor country groupings and campaigners at the talks. "This is unacceptable," said the Alliance of Small Island States in a statement. Climate finance at this level would not enable countries to green their economies to the extent needed to limit global heating to 1.5C above preindustrial levels, they warned. "The proposed \$250bn a year by 2035 is no floor, but a cap that will severely stagnate climate action efforts."

The Global Campaign to Demand Climate Justice said there were growing calls for a walkout, and that "no deal is better than a bad deal", as the Cop29 UN climate summit dragged on through Friday night. There is still no end in sight to the talks, which were scheduled to finish on Friday at 6pm Baku time.

Wafa Misrar, the campaigns and policy lead of Climate Action Network Africa, said: "[This is] a profound disrespect to

the people on the frontlines of the climate crisis – those losing their lives, homes and livelihoods every day. It is disheartening to witness the lack of commitment from global north countries, who seem willing to disregard our realities."

Safa' Al Jayoussi, the climate justice lead at Oxfam International, said: "This is a shameful failure of leadership. No deal would be better than a bad deal, but let's be clear – there is only one option for those grappling with the harshest impacts of climate collapse: trillions, not billions, in public and grants-based finance."

According to the draft text of a deal circulated on Thursday, developing countries would receive at least \$1.3tn a year in climate finance by 2035, which is in line with the demands most submitted in advance of this two-week conference.

But poor nations wanted much more of that headline finance to come directly from rich countries, preferably in the form of grants rather than loans. They said the offer of \$250bn coming from rich countries, with few safeguards over how much would come without strings attached, was much too little.

On Friday evening Greta Thunberg called the current draft "a complete disaster". "The people in power are yet again about to agree to a death sentence to the countless people whose lives have been or will be ruined by the climate crisis," she posted on X. "The current text is full of false

solutions and empty promises. The money from the global north countries needed to pay back their climate debt is still nowhere to be seen."

The offer from developed countries is supposed to form the inner core of a "layered" finance settlement, accompanied by a middle layer of new forms of finance such as new taxes on fossil fuels and high-carbon activities, carbon trading and "innovative" forms of finance; and an outermost layer of investment from the private sector, into projects such as solar and windfarms.

These layers would add up to \$1.3tn a year, which is the amount that leading economists have calculated is needed in external finance for developing countries to tackle the climate crisis. Many activists have demanded more – figures of \$5tn or \$7tn a year have been put forward by some groups, based on the historical responsibilities of developed countries for causing the climate crisis.

But rich countries are facing their own budgetary crises, with rampant inflation, wars including the one in Ukraine, the aftermath of the Covid pandemic and threats from rightwing parties to weaponise the climate crisis as an issue.

Steven Guilbeault, Canada's climate minister and a former green activist, said: "Countries like Canada are not denying what the needs are. We have made it clear that we cannot get to trillions with public

dollars. It's simply not possible."

Most countries – and campaigners – know this, he added. "Some people are being disingenuous. They have known from the beginning that we would get to trillions with public money. Our public would not allow that to happen, but we can mobilise more than we have so far and that's exactly what we are doing."

Azerbaijan, which holds the presidency of the talks, also came in for criticism on Friday as countries complained that draft texts of an agreement left out and played down a key commitment to "transition away from fossil fuels".

That commitment was made a year ago at the Cop28 talks in Dubai, but some countries want to unpick it. Saudi Arabia has been widely accused of taking the commitment out of drafts at every opportunity, to the fury of developed countries that want to build on the commitment to force a global shift away from high-carbon energy.

Yalchin Rafiyev, the chief negotiator for Azerbaijan, responded by accusing rich countries of failing to come up with an adequate offer of climate finance. "It [the \$250bn] doesn't correspond to a fair and ambitious goal," he said.

Delegates expect a further draft text on Saturday morning. That will also be subject to fierce negotiations and potentially further iterations.

Source: *The Guardian*

'Quality Village' inaugurates

BY DARGIE KAHSAY

PM Abiy visit, inaugurates 'Quality Village'



Before inaugurating the 'Quality Village', Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) visited and reviewed the developed National Quality Infrastructure Village, in the capital. PM Abiy, First Lady Zinash Tayachew, Ministers and senior government officials attended the visit, before officially inaugurating it.

Following the visit, PM Abiy said that "this critical institution is designed to catalyze the competitiveness of our local products in global markets and enhance our participation in global value chains."

The 'Quality Village' is set to become one among the leading national institutions built to play a pivotal role in strengthening the country's export capabilities and ensuring competitiveness in the international arena.

The village, which includes affiliated institutions in one place, is equipped with modern facilities, technological developments and well trained human power. Following the visit the infrastructure and activities of the village, PM Abiy officially inaugurated it.

