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Ethiopia launches meteorological stations project worth 9.9 mln USD

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA – The Ethiopian Meteorological Institute, in collaboration with international funders, has launched a 9.9 million USD Systematic Observation Financing Facility (SOFF) project. This initiative aims to upgrade 16 existing weather stations and construct 13 new ones across Ethiopia.

At the project's inception workshop yesterday, Water and Energy

See Ethiopia launches ... Page 3

'Made in Ethiopia' expects to garner global support

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA – Strengthening national initiatives like 'Made in Ethiopia' with international support can accelerate economic transformation, drive sustainable growth, and

contribute meaningfully to global food security, according to Industry Minister Melaku Alebel.

The Minister emphasized that the 'Made in Ethiopia' movement—a flagship initiative rooted in the success of integrated agro-industrial

parks and advancements in agri-business—has revitalized over 400 enterprises, showcasing Ethiopia's vision for industrialization, food security, and economic sustainability.

See 'Made in Ethiopia'... Page 3



U.S. President-elect Donald Trump

Premier congratulates U.S. president-elect Trump

• Eyes stronger Ethiopia-U.S. ties

Page 3

Outlook for Ethiopia's energy exports in HoA

BY HAILE DEMEKE

Strategically positioned in the Horn of Africa (HoA) and endowed with abundant renewable and non-renewable energy resources, Ethiopia is poised to become a regional energy hub. The nation has the potential to generate over 60,000 MW of electric power from hydroelectric, wind, solar, and geothermal sources. Accordingly, it is undergoing significant reforms to exploit the untapped energy potential through constructing mega projects aimed at responding to the increasing energy demand and also exporting to the neighboring countries.

Ethiopia's energy export is part of a broader plan to economically integrate the East African region through electricity infrastructure. The nation has secured 140 million USD from energy exports in the last Ethiopian fiscal year and is working to



further reach neighboring countries in the region through energy export. The country has been exporting energy to Djibouti, Kenya, Sudan and other countries and

planning to reach Tanzania. Energy is one of the most significant sectors for Ethiopia's

See Outlook for Ethiopia's ... Page 3



Photo: Hadush Abrha

Desalegn Woyese

Ethiopia's role in CJCA boosts influence, global standing

• To host CJCA conference

BY MESEFRET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA – The Secretariat of the Council of Constitutional Inquiry (CCI) has announced that Ethiopia's recent selection as the executive of the Conference of African Constitutional Courts (CJCA) will enhance its influence and credibility on both the continental and global stages.

In a briefing yesterday, Desalegn Woyese Director General of the Secretariat of the CCI, highlighted that this new role will elevate Ethiopia's standing within Africa and beyond. "As the executive of the CJCA, Ethiopia will gain increased acceptance and influence, facilitating cooperation, experience-sharing, and promoting the Ethiopian constitution," he noted. The executive role also brings benefits in development and reputation-building for Ethiopia.

Though Ethiopia's Council of Constitutional Inquiry has been interpreting constitutional issues only recently, its active participation has earned it the executive position for the next two years. Ethiopia is also set to host the CJCA conference next year, which, according to Desalegn, will be a unique opportunity to showcase Ethiopia's growing expertise in constitutional interpretation and to learn from countries with centuries of experience in the field.

The CJCA conference, under the African Union's umbrella, consists of three bodies: the congress, executive bureau, and general secretariat. The congress, as the highest decision-making body, oversees key matters such as budget ratification, agreement approvals, and addressing executive issues. Meanwhile, the executive bureau manages reporting, agenda-setting, and implementing congress decisions, while the general secretariat handles day-to-day administration and encourages new member invitations.

Ethiopia joined the CJCA in 2017 through its CCI, becoming part of an organization representing 48 African nations' constitutional courts. The CJCA, headquartered in Algiers, Algeria, was established following the African Union's 15th session in 2010 in Kampala, Uganda.

The CJCA serves as a platform for African constitutional courts to share experiences, fostering cooperation and reinforcing the constitutional framework across the continent.

Nation pinpoints IP as driving force for innovation, dev't

BY HAILE DEMEKE

ADDIS ABABA - Ethiopian Intellectual Property Authority (EIPA) placed particular emphasis on Intellectual Property (IP) management to drive Ethiopia's digital transformation while boosting innovation and technology.

Director General of EIPA Woldu Yemessel, said that Ethiopia has immense intangible assets, and the proper management and protection of these assets, can foster an IP driven ecosystem, boosts innovation, and strengthens nation's economic growth. Ethiopia has to embed IP into national frameworks, and stands to build a dynamic environment where innovation thrives, industries flourishes.

He stated that the House of People's Representatives recently approved Ethiopia's accession to the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property and the Madrid Protocol for the International Registration of Marks.

State Minister of Ministry of Innovation and Technology, Fozia Amin (PhD) said that as Ethiopia is striving to transform itself into a middle-income and industrialized nation, it is important to emphasize on proper management of IP, which is crucial to drive economy.

Director, International Classifications and Standards Division WIPO Kunihiko Fushimi, for his part said that Ethiopia has lot of potential in the sector and integrating IP policies into broader national development goals and strategies, is important to unlock potential that drives sustainable economic growth, and empowering SMEs and creators.

Acting Director, Division for Africa, WIPO Loretta Asiedu, said that the forum is both timely and essential, as Ethiopia strives to transform itself into a middle-income,



Photo: Eyob Tefari

industrialized nation by focusing on sustainable economic growth, social development, and environmental sustainability - as embedded in its development Vision 2030.

A considerable number of African nations have recognized that the IP system is no longer an abstract legal notion which is relevant only to wealthy nations. It is being recognized as relevant to all nations and cultures, contributing immensely to the economic growth and development of societies. Exploring the transformative potential of IP is instrumental to the national development aspirations of Ethiopia, she noted.

She stated that in today's knowledge-based economy, innovation and IP play critical roles in driving economic growth, competitiveness, and sustainable development. Intangible assets like ideas, expertise, and technology, are as valuable as physical assets. It is innovation which transforms knowledge into new products, services, and processes, creating competitive advantages for businesses. IP in turn, provides a legal framework to protect and capitalize on these intangible assets.

Within the global south and indeed across Africa, countries are integrating IP policies into their broader national development goals and strategies, unlocking potential that

drives sustainable economic growth, enhances competitiveness, and empowers local innovators and creators.

Some African countries like Rwanda, South Africa, Kenya, Ghana and others are making strides in aligning IP with national development goals on transitioning to a knowledge-based economy, with IP serving as a catalyst for innovation and economic transformation.

Commending the Ethiopian government for taking steps to design a draft National IP Policy and Strategy with WIPO support in 2022, Asiedu expressed hope that this draft policy obtains approval at the highest decision-making level of the country and provides a comprehensive framework for IP governance in the country. The government takes steps towards acceding to WIPO treaties which is successful initiatives seen across Africa and globally.

The authority has opened national intellectual property week organized by World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in collaboration with the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia with the support of the Japan Patent Office (JPO) and the Ethiopian Intellectual Property Authority (EIPA) aimed at proper intellectual property management and boosting innovation.



Hadi Akoum



Airbus to deliver four more planes in months

• Pledges sustainable medical support to Ethiopia

BY MENGISTEAB TESHOME

ADDIS ABABA – Airbus expressed preparations to deliver four additional aircrafts to the Ethiopian Airlines in the coming months while reaffirming commitment to provide sustainable medical support to the East African country.

The aircraft manufacturer made the announcement on Tuesday in Addis Ababa as it handed over Africa's first A350-1000 passenger plane to the Ethiopian flag carrier along with a medical support package from the Airbus Foundation.

Delivering the aircraft and the medical support, Airbus Vice President of Sales for Africa, Hadi Akoum, expressed that the company would deliver additional four

aircrafts in the coming months, as ordered by the Ethiopian Airlines.

Including three A350-1000 planes, Ethiopian Airlines is yet to receive 11 additional A350 planes from Airbus.

The vice president also reaffirmed the Airbus Foundation's commitment to continue supporting the Ministry of Health.

Minister of Health Mekedes Daba (MD) on her part appreciated to the Airbus Foundation for its ongoing support with the donation of 1.5 tons of medical supplies and medicines.

She also acknowledged Ethiopian Airlines for its consistent assistance in transporting medical supplies whenever received a new aircraft. The airline has a history of providing free cargo services for humanitarian aid,

demonstrating its commitment to supporting health initiatives.

The arrival of the Airbus A350-1000, which is the first of its kind in Africa, is set to enhance Ethiopian Airlines' position as the leading airline on the continent, the national flag carrier's CEO Mesfin Tasew said during the handing over ceremony in Addis Ababa.

To date Ethiopian Airlines operates a fleet of 21 A350 Family aircraft. A total of 14 additional A350 aircraft are set to join the airline's fleet in the coming years, including 11 A350-900 and three additional A350-1000. The A350-1000 will provide great operational commonality with the A350-900 fleet, ensuring seamless integration with shared pilots and mechanics simplifying training and maintenance processes, according to Airbus.

Premier congratulates president-elect Trump

• Eyes stronger Ethiopia-U.S. ties

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA- Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) congratulated Donald Trump yesterday on his election as the 47th President of the United States of America, extending warm wishes for a successful and impactful term.

In his social media message, Abiy expressed

optimism that the longstanding relations between Ethiopia and the U.S. will flourish further under Trump's leadership. He highlighted the strong people-to-people and trade ties between the two nations, expecting them to be invigorated in the years ahead.

The Prime Minister also noted the partnership between the U.S. and Ethiopia

in combating terrorism, which has contributed to peace and stability in the region. Diplomatic relations, established in 1903, continue to expand in trade and investment, marking a new chapter in the historical bond.

Trump won the closely contested election, defeating Democratic nominee and current U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris.

'Made in Ethiopia' expects ...

However, Ethiopia's journey toward sustainable food security hinges on continued collaboration and investment from the global community. "We need optimal investment to enhance production and productivity in rural areas through agro-processing," he stated, stressing the importance of public-private partnerships and international support.

Ethiopia is committed to building a resilient food system that ensures reliable access to nutritious food. This vision requires innovative and sustainable approaches that can withstand climate and resource challenges. A key component is agro-processing, which transforms raw produce into market-ready goods, reduces waste, extends shelf life, and creates economic opportunities in rural communities. "Our integrated agro-industrial parks are already making a significant impact," Melaku added.

With substantial investment, three integrated agro-industrial parks are operational, connecting over 140,000 smallholder farmers to markets and creating more than 70,000 permanent jobs. Ethiopia aims to establish a minimum of 17 agro-industrial parks nationwide, starting with seven pilot projects that have spurred production in rural areas.

The Minister called on international partners to join Ethiopia in advancing priorities like the development of agro-industrial parks, capacity building, value chain enhancement, and organic certification to improve global competitiveness.

UNIDO Director General Gerd Muller stressed that investment is key to solving hunger. "We must mobilize much more investment and forge technology partnerships between industrialized and developing countries. Despite urgent

need, investment in agriculture has declined in recent years," he said, adding that agriculture spending, especially in developing regions, is falling short of meeting food security demands.

According to Muller, ending world hunger by 2035 would require an additional 50 billion USD in annual agricultural investment focused on rural areas, technology, and irrigation. "UNIDO stands ready to support agribusiness entrepreneurs, address financial constraints, and facilitate knowledge transfer. Together, we can mobilize the resources needed for resilient, sustainable food systems," he stated.

He concluded with a call for swift action: "The sooner we invest the more cost-effective and impactful it will be. By working together, we can build a food-secure world for today and future generations."

Outlook for ...

economic growth in which development is expected to boom significantly.

Ethiopian Electric Power (EEP) CEO Ashebir Balcha disclosed that EEP targets over USD 260 million in energy export earnings and the transmission testing to Tanzania will commence soon part of the country's efforts to expand its energy export market to the wider HoA region. Ethiopia has been exporting electricity to Sudan, Djibouti and other neighboring countries for years.

The country started exporting power to Kenya last year in November 2022. The Abbay Dam generated 17 percent of the country's total energy output despite operating only two of its 13 turbines during the last fiscal year. With the generation of additional energy from Abbay dam, Ethiopia's domestic energy supply will rise. Gibe III, GERD, and Tana Beles hydroelectric dams contributed 34, 17, and 9.6 percent power to Ethiopia's overall energy production.

Ethiopia has prioritized the construction of the grand dam, which with a projected installed capacity of 5,150 MW, is intended to serve as an engine for industrialization, economic development, and hard currency earnings through the export of electricity.

Ethiopia's current 5,200 MW of installed generation capacity reaches less than 60 percent of the country's population. The nation plans to increase power generation capacity to 17,000 MW in 10 years. Approximately 90 percent of the installed generation capacity is from hydropower, while the remaining 10 percent is from wind and thermal.

The nation is also constructing the Koysha Hydropower dam by the Omo River, which will be the second largest in Ethiopia next to the Abbay Dam with a capacity 2,170 MW. The government is now working to diversify the generation mix with other sources such as solar, wind, and geothermal that will result in a more climate-resilient power system. It sees partnering with the private sector as a critical component to expanding energy output.

The Ethiopian Electric Power (EEP) Communication Director Moges Mekonen, said that Ethiopia expects to earn around 10.1 billion birr from energy exports to neighboring Djibouti, Kenya and Sudan in the current 2023/2024 fiscal year. Similarly the nation aims to start energy exports to Tanzania in the 2023/2024 fiscal year, and if the plan is successfully carried out, it will be the first time the East African country exports energy to another country with which it does not share border.

Ethiopia earned 102 million USD from energy exports in the previous 2022/2023 fiscal year and plans to earn a further 20 billion birr in revenues from domestic energy-related activities. The Ethiopian government has announced its plan to increase the country's export revenues from electric power to 400 million USD within 10 years.



Photo: Gebabo Gebrie

Ethiopia launches meteorological ...

Minister Habtamu Itefa (PhD-Eng.) expressed gratitude to the World Meteorological Organization, United Nations Development Program (UNDP), and Norwegian Meteorological Institute for their support.

Given Ethiopia's reliance on rain-fed agriculture, Habtamu emphasized the critical need for robust, scientific early warning systems to mitigate climate extremes already impacting the country. "This project will serve as a foundation for climate-resilient agriculture by enhancing the quality and quantity of meteorological data," he noted.

The minister also highlighted Ethiopia's ongoing climate adaptation efforts, including the Green Legacy Initiative, agro-forestry, and expanded irrigation systems. The government is investing billions of Birr to strengthen environmental institutions like the Ethiopian Meteorological Institute.

The Ethiopian Meteorological Institute Director General Fetene Teshome added that limited coverage has hindered data generation in Ethiopia's diverse climate zones. "With this project, we aim to significantly improve our station infrastructure across the regions," he said. The total number of meteorological stations

will reach 30 upon full implementation, laying groundwork for modern data collection and calibration.

UNDP Resident Representative Samuel Doe and Norwegian Meteorological Institute Director Roar Skalin commended Ethiopia's commitment to advancing climate data systems and pledged ongoing support for the country's climate resilience initiatives.

SOFF is a financing mechanism that supports countries to close the basic weather and climate observations data gap. By providing long-term financial and technical assistance, SOFF contributes towards a global public good.

Opinion

Securing sea access for Ethiopia means myriads of benefits

BY ABEBE WOLDEGIORGIS

World history testifies that countries' economic development and social progress are directly related with ports' development and accessing sea routes. Since the ancient time, explorers and merchants utilized sea routes and ports for their economic activities and social engagements.

The Portuguese explorer, Ferdinand Magellan, sailed towards South America and found the continent's location and paved the way for boosting trade between Europe and Latin America. Through trade, various economic and political ideas and cultural exchanges had taken place. It also paved the way for the flourishing of human civilization.

Another explorer, Christopher Columbus, was an Italian explorer and navigator from the Republic of Genoa who completed four Spanish-based voyages across the Atlantic Ocean sponsored by the Catholic Monarchs, opening the way for the widespread European exploration and colonization of the Americas. His expeditions were the first known European contact with the Caribbean and Central and South America. The discovery of the new world was the corner stone for the socio-economic development of Europe and America.

Exploration of Gibraltar sea shore located between Morocco and Portugal, Cape of Good Hope the sea route in the costal place of South Africa and the opening up of Suez Canal which connected Mediterranean Sea with the Red Sea, propelled the flourishing of trade between Europe and Asia through boosting marine transport and import and export trade.

Ports often function as logistical hubs, providing value-added services to support international trades. They offer a range of services such as customs clearance, inspection, certification, and documentation.

Developed countries have revolutionized the way they ship and track shipments from anywhere in the world. They have expanded their reach to a wider group of customers. In so doing, they reduced costs service fees and they run their operations online quickly.

Port cities all over the world are the outcomes of the flourished international trades and drew handsome amount of revenue from port services and tariffs. According to urban development experts, ports played crucial role for urbanization and economic progress. Cities like Los Angeles and New York in the USA are the most economically vibrant places due to their provision of port services and their access to sea routes.

In USA, ports are an important part of the national economy and international transportation system. Over 95% of the cargo entering the United States arrives by ship, and over 360 commercial ports nationwide help to transfer these goods to their destinations in communities across the nation.

Ports create jobs not only within the port facilities, but also in related industries like logistics, transportation and manufacturing. Ports' capabilities often influence foreign direct investment decisions. Ports contribute



Photo: Google

Access to sea for Ethiopia is beyond economic benefit

significantly to national and regional economies by generating employment, attracting business investments and fostering industrial growth. Behind the economic miracle of the Asian tiger countries such as South Korea, Singapore, Malaysia and Hong Kong, port services and access to sea routes played pivotal role.

In the strategically located Singapore, the port services contribute more than 50% to the nation's Gross Domestic Product. The primary reason for the rise of the economies of the Four Asian Tigers was their export policies. The four countries have followed different approaches; Singapore and Hong Kong implemented neo-liberal trading regimes that promoted free trade. The new report also highlights the resilience of East Asian ports and the capacity of Chinese ports in particular to effectively handle challenges brought about by the global financial crises.

Three of the large Chinese gateways, Shanghai, Ningbo and the southern port of Guangzhou, feature in the top ten, while last year's most efficient port — Yokohama in Japan — dropped to 10th place overall.

The index and underlying data are intended to identify gaps and opportunities for improvement that would benefit all key stakeholders in global trade, including governments, shipping lines, ports and terminal operators, shippers, logistics companies and consumers.

Key port performance metrics show large discrepancies in global port efficiency in 2021, with top performers such as King Abdullah Port achieving an average of 97 container moves per hour of vessel port time compared with just 26 container moves per hour at the main ports on North America's West Coast.

More than four-fifths of global merchandise trade activities are carried out by sea, and approximately 35% of total volumes and over 60% of commercial value is shipped in containers.

It is, therefore, very vital to use efficient ports. Ports are very significant for the economy of landlocked countries like Ethiopian. Access to efficient and reliable ports is crucial, decisive, fundamental and essential for facilitating international trade. It ensures the smooth flow of goods to local and international markets.

In so doing, it supports economic growth and development in the country.

There are quite a lot of strategies in which ports contribute to the Ethiopia's economy. Ethiopia's case for reliable and cost-effective seaport access is very strong. To secure its economic future, it must lower the economic costs associated with its being landlocked. Studies reveal that generally, landlocked countries tend to be twenty percent less developed than they would be if they had access to the sea. This is partly caused by cost of trade such as transportation costs ranging between 50% and 60% higher for land locked countries.

For Ethiopia to achieve its development objectives, it will require "export-oriented" industrialization and higher productivity in agriculture. The country needs to have more control over trade-related costs and ensure stability on both sides of its fronts with neighboring countries.

Ethiopia, located in the Horn of Africa flanked by Red Sea and the Indian Ocean, is a land locked country with more than 120 million people. Getting access to sea is not only boosts its economy through making cost effective trade and business, but also has strategic importance in terms of diplomacy, peace and security among others.

Apart from economic related challenges, land locked countries are vulnerable to foreign aggressions because invaders come to the hinterland of the country without facing military resistance in the suburb of the sea. History proved that foreign aggressors made military expedition through crossing Red Sea to come to the hinterland. Since the 16th century onwards, Turkish, British and Italians invaded Ethiopia by crossing Red Sea. Had Ethiopia secured ports that time, it could easily defend its territories before the enemies were embarking from sea to its inland territories.

Some countries' experiences showed that when land locked countries quarrel with their neighboring countries on their own sea shores, they immediately face trade sanctions and barred from getting access to the sea outlet and importing weapons from abroad will be a challenge. This situation, thus, put the land locked countries in a disadvantageous position in terms of security.

Six years ago, when the Ethiopian incumbent assumed the power had defused the political tension between Ethiopia and Eritrea and restored diplomatic relation. The Ethiopian airlines also resumed flight to Asmara. In return, the Eritrean government announced that Ethiopia can use port of Asab.

Taking the situation as a good opportunity, the government of Ethiopia began to renew the road from Afar region to port of Asab but after the Pretoria peace agreement between the government and TPLF forces which halted the two years long war, the Eritrean government turned its back and refrained its pledge to offer port service to Ethiopia and later began some clandestine activities by joining the club of historical foes of our country.

In the past, Ethiopia made agreement to use Port Sudan with the government of Sudan. However, after war broke out between the government and the Sudan Rapid Forces led by General Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo two years ago, the country reduced itself in to anarchy and utilizing the port has been impossible. This also indicates how securing viable port from neighboring countries is essential.

Ethiopia also agreed with Kenya to use port of Lamu located in the costal place of Indian Ocean. Ethiopia also secured places near the coastal areas which enable her to build dry ports. Currently, our country imports some commodities particularly food products through port of Lamu. However, as compared to other ports such as Djibouti and Hargessa in Somaliland, Port of Lamu is the most remote one.

Ethiopia is currently conducting 95% of its import and export trade through Port of Djibouti. Being dependent on one port is not safe for Ethiopia, a country with more than 120 million people and rapidly growing economy. Besides, the port's rental fee seems unfair that Ethiopia pays about 2 billion Dollars annually. In addition to these, due to congestion and unfair treatment of the port administrators, the Ethiopian imported products stay for long unloaded and consequently, importers has faced additional service payment by demerge which left them financially broken.

Not only these, drivers also ill-treated by the concerned officials though they are willing to obey laws of the land. On the other hand, about 100 kilometers of the road stretched inside Djibouti is totally dilapidated which delays vehicles' movement and damages parts of the cars. Ethiopian drivers, for so many years, have appealed to the government for the repair of the dilapidated road; but the response given by the government is still not sounding.

Therefore, considering the above challenges, though it has great interest to use port of Djibouti now and in the future, Ethiopia should resort to find its own viable port in the neighboring countries. The signing of Memorandum of Understanding between Ethiopia and Somaliland to get access the sea in this regard is remarkable and will bring viable answer for Ethiopia's generational long quest.

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

Editorial

Ethiopian: Symbol of resilience, excellence

Earlier this week, Ethiopian Airlines, Africa's largest and most successful airlines, welcomed the first of its kind in Africa Airbus -A350-1000s, from Airbus.

The acquisition of this cutting-edge passengers plane named "Ethiopia: Land of Origins" is a groundbreaking step for the flag carrier to have a competitive edge at the global aviation industry and play its leading role in connecting the African continent with the rest of the world. It is also a significant leap forward not only for Ethiopian Airlines but also a pride for the African aviation sector.

Founded on 21 December 1945 and having commenced operations on 8 April 1946, the airlines has long been a symbol of excellence and resilience in the aviation world. In its nearly eight decades of operations, the Airlines has been working diligently in expanding its destinations and winning customers' expectations by providing customer-centered world-class passenger and cargo service. As a result, it has made a name for itself and received numerous awards and prestigious recognitions from various regional and global organizations.

Just to mention, in the year 2024 alone, the carrier has received the 2025 APEX Passenger Choice Awards for offering superior passenger experiences. It was also crowned as the winner of the 'Best Entertainment in Africa' and 'Best Wi-Fi in Africa' awards. The Airlines has also been celebrated for its contributions to the continent's tourism and aviation sectors, including the Outstanding Tourism Transportation Award at the 2024 Africa Tourism Leadership Forum.

In fact, the Airline's commitment and dedication to serving passengers with integrity and unrivaled services is not limited only to good times. It was also testified in times of crises.

Notably, during the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, while many global airlines disconnected their operations, Ethiopian Airlines continued to serve communities by transporting critical vaccines and personal protective equipment to over 80 countries, including several African nations.

This unparalleled commitment and resilience in turn earned the Airlines the Global Recognition and Appreciation Award at the First International Post-COVID Conference held in Toronto for its outstanding role in the COVID-19 response.

These days, Ethiopian Airlines operates a fleet of 147 aircraft serving 139 international and 22 domestic flight destinations. Its rapid expansion and consistent service excellence have earned it numerous prestigious awards and appreciations.

What is more, it is gaining a frontline in the aviation industry by expanding its destination, adopting cutting-edge technology, advancing itself forward, and continuing to provide superior customer services.

The airlines though experienced consistent success and progress, it never satisfied with its wins. Instead, it is striving to achieve the better. By devising a 15-year ambitious strategic plan, it is working to enhance its capacity and connectivity, and provide a superior travel experience for its customers.

Further, it sets a plan to build Africa's largest airport that can accommodate up to 130 million passengers annually.

In this regard, the procurement of the A350-1000 marks a new chapter in the carrier's longstanding vision of connecting Africa with the entire world, promoting people to people ties and culture and bolstering economic cooperation within the entire continent of Africa while increasing its competitiveness in the global aviation industry.

Opinion

Scaling up media contribution to all spheres of development

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

Part II

In spite of the crucial importance of uniformity in IT systems management and utilization for media outlets, major media outlets in Ethiopia do not have a standard IT policy for information exchange and management within their institutions or in their relations with other media houses and stakeholders.

Higher institutes of learning and universities in the country that have opened schools or departments of journalism focus on theories of mass communication and journalism but fail to provide practical field education and training for their students.

In many media centers in the country, reporters are not encouraged to specialize in specific areas of coverage like health, courts, economy, sports, or technology.

Many media outlets in the country, particularly public media houses, have resource centers filled with old materials that are not being used by reporters or editors. Those in the press media do not have standard press kits that could be used to promote Ethiopia and current development programs in the country, which is critical for attracting tourists, researchers, historians, sociologists, anthropologists, and adventurers.

Commercial media outlets in the country are poorly funded and cannot provide decent salary scales for their staff, who seek better payments in other media outlets. The same is true for reporters working in public media houses. There is no staff retention policy in place in most of these media centers.

As a professional with over 40 years of experience in the field, the author wishes to present the following recommendations for improving media management and content development in Ethiopia:

First, efforts that were previously made to develop national media policy and strategy need to be revived in such a way that the media need to be used as a tool of peace and stability in the country and for developing national quality media content.

Second, media companies need to focus on peace communication and peace journalism by developing special programs on peace and reconciliation in the country.

Third, Ethiopian media houses need to develop their own media ethical standards which are based on the psychological makeup of the people by blending it with international media ethical standards and indicators.

Fourth, Ethiopia is surrounded by Arabic and French speaking countries and

media outlets that use these languages in their media communication outputs. Universities which train journalists and public relations need to provide trainings in Arabic and French to enable students to adequately communicate in both languages and monitor international media outputs.

Fifth, reporters need to be equipped with modern media digital gadgets which will help them to transmit news right from the sport and submit them to editors with no waste of time until they come to their office. This is no luxury or show of status but for promoting efficiency and quality reporting.

Six, many press agencies are cutting down their pages and columns due to skyrocketing of printing costs and the Ethiopian government can help in easing such burdens that dwarf the progress of print media.

Seventh, media companies should strive to improve their logistics services to be in time for media coverages of important local and international conferences.

Eighth, the author is aware of the existence of a legal media council which has so far remained docile. The leadership and member media outlets need to support the council which can be used as a conveyor belt between the government and media houses as well as for peer review purposes.

Ninth, it would be important to establish a national fund for media development in Ethiopia to assist stronger local media outlets so that they can contribute to media development in the country.

Tenth, media outlets in Ethiopia need to conduct audience survey and analysis at least twice a year so that the media could operate in the context of he needs, interests, values and attitudes of the public at large.

Eleventh, promoting national interest of Ethiopia in a more balanced way by reporting on opinions from all sides is very important with due consideration to the legal protection, safety and security of journalists. Journalists are journalists and not politicians or activists. Balanced reporting, focusing on the national interest of the country.

Twelfth, media outlets may conduct monitoring and evaluation at least twice a year not only on staff performance but also on the general performance of media houses in the country.

It must be noted that Ethiopia's image at the regional and global level is growing from time to time and media institutions need to be ever more ready to effectively report on the socio-economic and political developments of the country in a professional manner.

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



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Business & Economy

Sustainable, promising growth of agricultural sector

BY BACHA ZEWDIE

Ethiopia has designed and is implementing a ten-year perspective development plan that will enable it to grow its economy. Extensive plans have been issued and implemented in agriculture, industry, information technology, tourism and mining sectors, which have been identified as pillars of the homegrown economic reforms. The programs are showing results every year, with some even achieving excellent results.

The country is carrying out many development activities that will increase the productivity of the agricultural sector, especially for its efforts to ensure food security and create a society freed from aid. In this way, it has been able to achieve remarkable results, and it is said that the sector has been able to play a leading role in the economic development of the country as a whole.

FDRE Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) recently confirmed this in his explanation to the questions raised by members of the House of People's Representatives. According to him, last year, growth of the annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was 8.1% higher than expected. The agricultural sector has played a leading role in this development. The sector recorded promising growth in the fiscal year. This achievement was because of extensive works in all fields to move the sector to better productivity and to modernize agriculture.

As the Minister of Agriculture, Girma Amente (PhD) said in his recent statement regarding the quarterly performance of the agriculture sector; in the past years, special attention has been paid to increase production and productivity by using the potential in the sector. In addition to these encouraging results, the sector has played an important role in the overall national development.

Based on the past results, the Ministry is striving to record better performance in 2024 harvest season and to ensure the continuity of the contribution of agriculture to the nation's development. In the first quarter of this fiscal year, encouraging results have been achieved in crops and horticulture, coffee cultivation, green legacy seedling planting, 'Yelemat Tirufat', input supply and agricultural trade.

As to him, results from the sector will be a great resource for further work. They lay the foundation for doing more. Efforts are being made to increase production and productivity of crops and horticulture based on Belg, main harvest and irrigation seasons, and it is planned to produce 608 million quintals by cultivating 20,560 hectares of land during the harvest season.

The Minister mentioned that it has been possible to cover 20.4 million hectares of land with seeds. Of this, 11.8 million hectares are cultivated in clusters. He also noted that currently, a crop of 1.7 million hectares of land has been harvested and more than 5.3 million quintals have been produced.

He also pointed out that sesame, almonds,



Photo: Google

Ethiopia's agriculture sector is registering remarkable growth

soya beans and others will increase their production significantly. According to the Minister's explanation; although the agricultural sector is planned to register a growth of 6.1% this year, as of last year's experience, the current conditions indicate that it is possible to achieve more than the plan. In general, 1.4 billion quintals product is expected by plowing 30 million hectares of land during the production season. It is also planned to earn 2 billion dollars from coffee production in the current year.

At the same time, the Minister pointed out that irrigated wheat has been planned and put into action to produce 173 million quintals by plowing 4.2 million hectares of land in all regions. "Until the middle of October, a total of 850,094 hectares of land has been plowed with traditional methods and tractors, and 505,113 hectares have been covered with seeds," he said.

He announced that production of 300 million quintals is expected from the 8.2 million hectares of land covered with wheat this winter and summer. In this way, he emphasized that efforts will be made to increase the country's economy by enhancing productivity.

Regarding input provision; 1.65 million metric tons of fertilizer was distributed during the production period; in the first quarter alone, 512,216.9 metric tons of fertilizer was distributed to farmers.

He said that it is planned to purchase 2,404,729 metric tons of soil fertilizer for irrigation, Belg and harvest seasons, for which 1.3 billion Dollar is approved. It is also planned to supply two million quintals of best seeds in the next production year.

As to Dr. Girma, in the current fiscal year, a growth of 5.4% will be recorded in 'Yelemat Tirufat' products, for example, 12 billion liters of milk is expected in the year. The capacity to produce 8 billion chicken eggs, 218,000 tons of meat and 297,000 tons of honey has been created in the year. In order

to increase fish production and productivity, it is planned and implemented to increase 1.34 million fish fry in fish farming. It is planned to distribute 2,134,275 million modern beehives to beneficiaries in the fiscal year, and 259,000 modern beehives were distributed in the first quarter.

In relation to animal breeding work, "In terms of liquid nitrogen production in the regions and institutes, it was planned to produce 170,000 liters of liquid nitrogen in the first quarter, and we were able to achieve more than planned by producing 500,000 liters," he said. In general, Dr. Girma mentioned that a high production has been registered in all fields of green legacy, forestry, vegetables and fruits, and combined agriculture. This was a 33% increase over the same period last year.

Efforts will be made to improve productivity thereby to achieve better in all regions this year by using technologies. He realized that it is believed that this will contribute to the growth of the agricultural sector and increase it to a higher level.

Prime Minister Abiy said that agriculture has brought great revival in the past years. "This year, it is expected to register 6.1% growth," he said, pointing out that it is possible to record excellent results in the sector. "Five or six years ago, we were cultivating less than 15 million hectares; but now, not only in terms of land area, but also because of our practice of using the summer season widely for irrigation, using cluster, we are expecting a growth of 6.6% in crop production," he said.

According to the Prime Minister, there was a growth of one million quintals in coffee production. The growth of coffee production increased significantly in the past years. "We know our differences with Vietnam and it is expected that we will be able to produce no less than that in the next few years. This year, after Brazil and Vietnam, Ethiopia is the third largest coffee producing country," he said.

For the next few years, it is being planned to strengthen the planting of coffee plants and seedling, except for Brazil, there will be no country that exceeds Ethiopia in coffee production. He mentioned that last year 1.4 billion Dollar was obtained from coffee export trade, and this year, two billion Dollar is expected from the sub sector.

The Prime Minister mentioned that this development has started to be seen not only in coffee but also in tea. "Tea is widely planted in southwest Ethiopia; we are getting amazing results. Tea, however, is not sold as a drink by nature. After tea leaves are collected, processing should be done."

He also stated that preparations are being made for land and seedlings to get three times the amount of tea that has been planted. Considering what has been planted now, he realized that a large number of factories should be established and process, and if this cannot be done, the farmers may lose the market.

Therefore, by talking to private investors and visiting some countries and working to gain experience, an agreement has been reached with the private sector to plant at least 20 tea leaf processing factories. "However, since we are currently planting on a large scale, even twenty processors will not be enough, so many more factories are still needed," he pointed out.

Dr. Abiy further said that effort will be exerted to secure the results obtained in the agricultural sector. He expressed his belief that if it is possible to expand the development by correcting and reconciling the weak sides, the growth will continue.

Although encouraging results have been recorded in the sector, it is expected to do a lot of homework in terms of the planned development goal of making the country one of the middle-income countries, especially in high quality and quantity production, he underlined.

Art & Culture

Returning Shield of Mekdela to its rightful home Ethiopia

BY NAOL GIRMA

It was observed that Ethiopia has managed to see the return of the Shield of Mekdela which many said was a significant cultural triumph; an artifact of profound historical importance that was looted by British forces during the 1868 Expedition to Abyssinia. The shield was taken following the Battle of Mekdela, where Emperor Tewodros II's mountain fortress was captured, and numerous treasures were plundered. It is now set to be returned to its rightful home.

Originally slated for auction this past February by the UK auction house Anderson and Garland, the shield's return is the result of dedicated efforts by the Ethiopian government and the Royal Ethiopian Trust (RET). RET, a nonprofit founded by Prince Ermias Sahle-Selassie Haile-Selassie, the grandson of Emperor Haile Selassie I, successfully negotiated with the auction house to cancel the sale and facilitate the shield's repatriation. Prince Ermias highlighted the shield's significance, stating, "This shield is not just a historical artifact; it symbolizes Ethiopia's history and resilience. Our success in reclaiming this treasure underscores our commitment to preserving our heritage and honoring the sacrifices of our ancestors who fought for our nation's sovereignty."

The Royal Ethiopian Trust worked alongside British scholar Alula Pankhurst, an expert in Ethiopian history and grandson of the noted activist Sylvia Pankhurst, who was a strong advocate for Ethiopia during Italy's 1936 invasion. Alula Pankhurst remarked on his involvement, saying, "It has been an honor to collaborate with Prince Ermias and the Royal Ethiopian Trust to return this vital piece of history to its rightful owners. Our families have long been devoted to protecting Ethiopia's heritage, and ensuring this shield's return is a proudf extension of that legacy."

After its final exhibition at the Toledo Museum of Art in Ohio, where it is featured in "Ethiopia at the Crossroads," the shield will travel to the National Museum of Ethiopia. This repatriation is part of a broader movement to return cultural treasures to Ethiopia, symbolizing not only the return of a historical artifact but also a significant victory in preserving Ethiopia's cultural sovereignty and resilience.

Experts in area say that repatriating items of high cultural value is a crucial endeavor that carries profound implications for the communities and nations involved. Repatriation helps restore a sense of cultural identity to communities that have been historically marginalized or oppressed. Items returned to their place of origin can serve as symbols of cultural pride and continuity. Repatriated artifacts often hold deep connections to ancestral traditions, allowing communities to reconnect with



their history and cultural practices.

The act of repatriation acknowledges historical injustices, such as colonialism and cultural theft, fostering a sense of justice and reconciliation for affected communities. Repatriation can initiate important dialogues about history, ethics, and the responsibilities of institutions, promoting healing and understanding between cultures. Returning cultural artifacts promotes a richer understanding of global diversity. It allows for the sharing of different cultural narratives and histories, fostering mutual respect and appreciation.

Repatriation is often linked to broader movements advocating for the rights of indigenous peoples and marginalized communities, helping to amplify their voices and perspectives. Sending home items can serve as valuable educational resources, providing insights into the cultural, historical, and artistic heritage of a community. They can be used in museums and educational programs to teach future generations.

The return of artifacts can stimulate research and scholarship within the cultural context of their origin, leading to a deeper understanding of the community's history and contributions.

The return of cultural items can strengthen

community ties and encourage local involvement in cultural heritage initiatives, enhancing collective identity and solidarity.

Returning empowers communities by giving them agency over their cultural artifacts and narratives, allowing them to dictate how their heritage is preserved and presented.

Repatriated items can enhance cultural tourism, attracting visitors interested in authentic cultural experiences. This can lead to economic benefits for local communities.

The return of artifacts often comes with investments in local museums and cultural institutions, promoting job creation and skills development in heritage management.

The repatriation of culturally significant items is not merely an act of returning physical objects; it represents a deeper commitment to justice, healing, and the recognition of the intrinsic value of cultural heritage. It underscores the importance of respecting and honoring the histories and identities of all communities in a globalized world.

The return of the Shield of Mekdela to Ethiopia carries immense significance for various reasons, encompassing cultural, historical, and social dimensions. The Shield of Mekdela is a powerful symbol of Ethiopia's rich cultural heritage and history.

Its return reinforces national pride and helps restore a sense of identity that was disrupted by colonial actions. Returning the shield allows for the safeguarding of traditional practices and stories associated with it, ensuring that future generations can connect with their heritage.

The shield was taken during a colonial expedition, symbolizing the broader injustices faced by Ethiopia and other nations under colonial rule. Its return acknowledges this painful history and serves as a step toward reconciliation.

Empowerment of Local Narratives: Bringing the shield home empowers Ethiopian voices and narratives, allowing them to reclaim their history from colonial interpretations.

The return of the shield can enhance diplomatic relations between Ethiopia and the UK, fostering mutual respect and understanding. It demonstrates a commitment to addressing historical grievances through cooperative efforts.

This act can serve as a model for other nations regarding the repatriation of cultural artifacts, encouraging global discussions about the ethics of ownership and the responsibilities of museums and institutions.

The shield's presence in Ethiopia provides valuable opportunities for educational programs that teach about the country's history, culture, and the significance of the artifact itself.

Its return encourages academic research into Ethiopian history and culture, fostering a deeper understanding of the nation's past and contributions to the world.

The repatriation can inspire communities to engage more actively in cultural preservation and heritage initiatives, fostering a sense of ownership and pride in their history.

The shield's return allows local communities to tell their stories, reinforcing their agency in defining their cultural identity.

The shield symbolizes the resilience of the Ethiopian people, who have historically resisted colonization and preserved their sovereignty. Its return is a testament to their enduring spirit and cultural strength.

The shield serves as a reminder of the struggles faced by previous generations, inspiring current and future Ethiopians to continue valuing and protecting their cultural heritage.

The return of the Shield of Mekdela to Ethiopia is not merely a restitution of a historical artifact but a significant act of cultural reclamation, recognition of past injustices, and a reaffirmation of national identity. It embodies the collective memory and resilience of the Ethiopian people, making it a momentous occasion for the country and its cultural heritage.

Indepth

CFA: A reliable path to collective gains

BY STAFF REPORTER

It is a fact that trans-boundary natural resources, like the Abbay River, have been the focal point for many geopolitical and economic matters. Nations that share the same resources must come to the table to discuss ways to cooperate for mutual benefits. In the case of the Nile River, there are around 11 nations that share the water though the river is unfortunately connected to some nations like Egypt. In addition, 85 percent of the water comes from Ethiopia's Abbay River, and the rest is from the upper riparian countries.

To achieve the desired objective of ensuring comprehensive and fair utilization of natural resources, crafting an extensive agreement like the Nile Basin Cooperative Framework Agreement (CFA) is a way. The deal is expected to put the Nile Basin countries in a better position for fair and equitable natural resource utilization amidst challenges that pulled its effectiveness.

Based on their geographic position, the Nile basin countries are categorized under two positions, upper and lower riparian countries.

When it comes to utilizing the Nile River, both positions have different interests in utilizing the water resource. The origin countries and the upper riparian and the lower riparian nations have stood on different sides. In the past many years, lower riparian countries have been the sole advantageous nations to use the water for their interest. Whereas, the other side of the river, that is the origin of the water, have been bystanders.

In various documents, the colonial agreement which highly supports the low riparian countries with full access to the water could not be imposed on other nations like Ethiopia which has not seen the colonialism burden. When Ethiopia plans to utilize its natural resource, the Abbay River, to support its people, the nation knows how to deal with its neighbors and is willing to discuss the matter at any level. The country also understands the use of a comprehensive platform that can foster a fair distribution of advantages.

According to a recent report, the long-awaited Nile River Basin Cooperative Framework Agreement (CFA) has officially come into effect, paving the way for the establishment of the Nile River Basin Commission (NRBC). This marks a significant milestone in the efforts of Nile Basin countries to create a legal and institutional framework for the management and equitable use of the Nile River.

The Ethiopian Minister of Water and Energy, Habtamu Itefa, hailed the decision



as a testament to the collective resolve of the Nile Basin countries to work together for mutual benefit. In a statement shared with Capital, the Ministry emphasized that the CFA represents a historic step toward rectifying long-standing imbalances in the access and use of Nile waters.

“The establishment of the Nile River Basin Commission (NRBC) will manage and safeguard the Nile River for the benefit of all countries involved and serve as the cornerstone of our cooperative efforts,” Habtamu Itefa said. The NRBC will be responsible for coordinating cooperation among the Basin states and ensuring the sustainable management of the Nile’s resources.

The CFA, which has been ratified by Ethiopia, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Burundi, and, most recently, South Sudan, recognizes the legitimate needs of all Nile Basin countries and commits them to equitable sharing of the river’s waters. The agreement also underscores the importance of sustainable development, cooperation, and regional integration. It is a major step in resolving historical inequities, as it ensures that all Nile Basin nations can benefit from the shared water resource.

Habtamu highlighted the importance of thinking beyond the present: “We must use the resources of the Nile not just for today, but for the generations that will come after us. The CFA ensures that we protect the Nile and its ecosystems, utilizing its waters in ways that do not jeopardize the future.”

The agreement, which took years of negotiation to reach, represents the first multilateral effort to create a comprehensive legal framework governing the Nile’s use. The CFA’s entry

into force is particularly significant as it reflects the growing regional consensus around the need for cooperation over conflict. It calls for the equitable and reasonable use of the Nile’s waters, a crucial point of contention among Nile Basin countries, particularly Egypt and Sudan, which have so far refused to sign the agreement.

While upstream countries such as Ethiopia, Rwanda, Uganda, and Tanzania have embraced the CFA as a step toward fairer access to Nile waters, Egypt and Sudan remain opposed. For Egypt, which relies heavily on the Nile for its water supply, the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) on the Blue Nile has been a particular source of tension, with concerns that it may reduce the country’s water share. Egypt has continued to push for a binding agreement on the dam’s operation and filling process.

Accordingly, the recent ratification of the Nile Basin Cooperative Framework Agreement (CFA) by six Nile Basin countries represents a pivotal advancement toward a fair and sustainable approach to managing the river’s vital resources, said Professor Ya’akob Arsanow, Hydro Politics scholar at the Addis Ababa University’s Department of Political Science and International Relations.

The CFA has been a central topic of discussion among Nile Basin countries for years, now backed by parliamentary ratifications in six member states. This milestone reflects a commitment to ensuring equitable water use based on established legal principles, it was learned.

Professor Ya’akob Arsanow observes that the CFA marks the end of an era that upholds the benefit of a few countries from this shared water resource as it ensures equitable

water sharing among all riparian nations.

“A fair and equitable water use system is established through agreements made between 1999 and 2010. Thirteen years later, each participating country has signed the agreement, which has been ratified by their parliaments,” he stated.

According to Professor Yakob, “This Nile Agreement marks the end of an era that primarily advantages a few nations. The basic legal framework for water use is now in place, governed by law, and aims to facilitate fair water sharing among all involved countries, preventing monopolization by a select few.”

Under the agreement, the countries involved are expected to adopt a legal framework that upholds its principles, ensuring equitable sharing of water resources and diminishing the exclusive rights previously held by few nations. Regarding Egypt and Sudan, he pointed out that these countries have historically sought to utilize the Nile’s waters exclusively through their agreements.

“Because some parties, particularly Egypt and Sudan, do not accept the agreement, they may wish to continue exploiting water resources solely for themselves, arguing that the entire water wealth belongs only to them. This creates inequality among the countries and underscores the necessity for a legally sound and equitable water use system to avert conflicts.”

He said that both countries should come to their senses and join CFA as most of the members are source countries where the Nile River originates. The CFA highlights the ongoing demand for equitable sharing of water resources, emphasizing the critical need for a fair legal framework to address these challenges.

Law & Politics

New Development Bank: A new hope for the Global South

BY EYUEL KIFLU

In recent years, the Global South has increasingly questioned the actions and influence of major international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Critics argue that these institutions often act as instruments of Western interests, using their financial power as a “Trojan horse” to impose conditions favorable to developed nations on vulnerable sovereign states. This perception has led many developing countries to call for significant reforms within these institutions, as well as within the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), which they believe perpetuates inequities in global governance.

Despite the growing discontent and calls for change, tangible progress towards reforming these massive financial entities remains indefinable. Many nations in the Global South find themselves trapped in a cycle of dependency, where the promise of financial assistance comes with strings attached conditions that often prioritize the interests of the lenders over the needs of the borrowing nations. This ongoing struggle highlights a critical gap between the aspirations of developing countries and the actions of established financial institutions.

In light of these challenges, many countries in the Global South are actively seeking alternative financial partners to support their development agendas. Recently, the BRICS+ Development Bank has emerged as a feasible option for those disappointed with the policies and preconditions of classical international financial institutions. Comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, along with several other nations, the BRICS+ bloc offers a platform for collaboration that emphasizes mutual support rather than conditionality.

The New Development Bank (NDB), established by BRICS+, is garnering attention among countries looking for financial relief. According to NDB its mission focuses on priorities infrastructure and sustainable development projects that propel economic growth and improve the lives of people among member countries.

It is known that funding infrastructure projects which are critical for the economic development of many nations in the Global South. By prioritizing infrastructure development, the NDB aims to alleviate the financial burdens faced by these countries, enabling them to pursue growth without the constraints typically imposed by Western-dominated financial institutions.

As the Global South continues to advocate for reform and seek alternative funding sources, the conversation around financial

sovereignty becomes increasingly pertinent. The rise of institutions like the BRICS+ Development Bank signals a potential shift in the global financial landscape, one that may allow developing countries to assert greater control over their economic futures.

In an exclusive interview with *The Ethiopian Herald* Dawit Mezegebe, a lecturer at Dilla University and a Ph.D. candidate at the Centre for African and Asian Studies at Addis Ababa University says that the New Development Bank, founded in 2014, represents a significant departure from the Bretton Woods institutions established in 1944, such as the World Bank and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD),” he explains. “The primary focus of the NDB is on infrastructure development, addressing issues related to the green economy, and fostering balanced growth among member states. Importantly, it aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which were discussed at a conference held in Ethiopia in 2015.”

With a capital base exceeding 100 billion dollars, the NDB stands in stark contrast to the IMF and World Bank, which have historically operated under a system influenced heavily by Western powers. “The BRICS nations China, Russia, India, Brazil, and South Africa boast significant foreign reserves, allowing them to provide financial support without the imposition of Western ideologies,” Dawit notes.

He emphasizes that the NDB does not impose the same conditionalities that are typical of the IMF and World Bank, such as macroeconomic reforms or adherence to specific political ideologies.

One of the defining features of the NDB is its commitment to multilateralism. Dawit asserts that the BRICS framework promotes equitable relationships among member states, avoiding the “one-size-fits-all” approach of traditional institutions. “The NDB fosters a collaborative environment, enabling countries to support one another while minimizing the dominance of Western financial systems,” he explains.

Furthermore, he highlights the Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA) as a critical component of the NDB’s strategy, providing liquidity during financial crises without preconditions. “This is a major difference from the IMF and World Bank, which often impose strict guidelines that can undermine a country’s sovereignty,” he states.

Regarding the potential for the NDB to interfere in member states’ internal affairs, Dawit is clear: “BRICS does not impose its will on member countries. It aims to create

a balanced global development platform, respecting the sovereignty of states and their right to self-determination.”

He also discusses the strategic advantages for developing countries like Ethiopia in accessing funding from the NDB. “The NDB allows for transactions in local currencies, reducing dependency on Western financial systems and promoting economic sovereignty. This is essential for countries looking to enhance their economic resilience.”

As for the future of collaboration between the NDB, IMF, and World Bank, Dawit advises caution and strategic diplomacy. “Countries must assess which institution offers the most beneficial terms for their specific needs. Economic diplomacy is crucial in navigating these relationships. For instance, while the NDB may be suitable for certain infrastructure projects, the IMF could be tapped for emergency support if necessary.”

In conclusion, Dawit sees the NDB as a transformative force in the global financial landscape. “By offering an alternative to traditional Western-dominated institutions, the NDB provides developing countries with the opportunity to pursue growth on their own terms, free from the constraints of neo-colonial economic policies.” He emphasizes that the future of global economics lies in a multipolar world where nations can choose partnerships that best serve their interests.

Overall, the path forward for the Global South involves not only seeking alternatives to existing financial institutions but also uniting in their calls for reform and greater representation in global financial governance. As they navigate these complex dynamics, these countries must leverage their collective strength to forge a new narrative one that prioritizes their needs and aspirations in the face of a rapidly changing world.

It is recalled that the 16th BRICS Summit was held in Kazan, Russia, with Ethiopia participating for the first time as a member. According to the Press Secretariat of the Office of the Prime Minister, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed actively participated in the summit and engaged in successful bilateral and multilateral discussions.

In his speech, he called for reform of the global financial system and advocated for permanent African representation on the UN Security Council. These issues have been consistently raised by the Prime Minister in various international forums. During bilateral discussions on the sidelines of the summit, he conveyed Ethiopia’s positions to leaders of BRICS members and interested countries.

Countries must assess which institution offers the most beneficial terms for their specific needs. Economic diplomacy is crucial in navigating these relationships. For instance, while the NDB may be suitable for certain infrastructure projects, the IMF could be tapped for emergency support if necessary

Women in Focus

“Opportunity lies where untapped potential exists,” Rebecca Haile

BY MENGISTEAB TESHOME

“Opportunity Lies Where Untapped Potential Exists.” This motto was designed with the aim to empowering Ethiopia’s brightest young minds and sparking a transformation in the country’s educational landscape through providing world-class education.

The innovative educational initiative, dubbed “Ethiopia Education Initiatives (EEI)” was introduced by Rebecca Haile, a prominent educator, advocate dedicated to advancing educational opportunities in Ethiopia.

Rebecca, the eldest daughter of the late Prof. Getatchew Haile was born in Addis Ababa. However, when she was only 11 years old, the family left for the United States following the time that the Derg came to power.

Rebecca’s father being elite of the age was arrested and was shot and nearly died. Then, they fled and settled in Minnesota, USA, isolated, far from all relatives and friends.

Arriving in Minnesota, Rebecca, like many immigrants, faced a new set of challenges. The transition from Addis Ababa to the U.S. was difficult, and yet Rebecca thrived, driven by a passion for education and an unwavering belief in the transformative power of learning. As immigrants and minorities living below the poverty line for many years, they had to adjust and cope in many ways to establish life again.

However, owing to her strong family and the foundation built in her early years, these struggles did not stop her for long. She graduated from high school ranked in the top 10 out of a class of 500 students that earned her full scholarship to Williams College. After graduating from college, she worked for two years as a municipal finance analyst in New York City. Then she attended Harvard Law School. At Harvard, she was an editor of the Harvard Law Review, a position awarded to the highest achieving students and graduated cum laude in 1991.

Her accomplishments helped her land an opportunity to clerk for Judge Dorothy Nelson of the United States Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in California. Following her clerkship, she worked as a litigation attorney at prestigious law firms: Williams & Connolly in Washington, D.C. and in the mergers & acquisitions group at Davis Polk & Wardwell in New York City.

A continual enduring success followed as she partnered with her husband Jean Manas and co-founded Foros, a financial advisory firm focused on mergers and acquisitions. Rebecca initially served as an Executive Vice President of Finance and Operations. Currently, she advises the firm on strategy,



operations and human resources.

Rebecca felt she had reached a point where her life felt more stable. She began to think of how she should structure the next chapter of her life. She felt the need to answer to the subtle call of her homeland, a call to doing something impactful for her country of origin, Ethiopia. It was then the creation of the Ethiopia Education Initiatives (EEI), a not-for-profit organization that seeks to provide world class educational opportunities for talented Ethiopian students and impact education more broadly came to her mind.

Through her research, she concluded the need for an innovative, student-centered education that impacts the nation as a whole— a center that is uniquely crafted to develop future leaders. Then she did it. She opened the first academy, Haile-Minas Boarding Academy (HMA), the first of its kind secondary boarding school for promising bright students from across Ethiopia in Debre Birhan in 2021.

The boarding school was designed to instill discipline, an appreciation for hard work, and a can-do attitude. The Academy also provides scholarship to those who do not have the resources.

The school is modeling forward looking 21st century pedagogy that develops student agency, independent thinking and problem solving. Already, the school has made a name for itself and has hosted many dignitaries including HE President Sahle-work Zewde and Minister of Education

high standards and then empowering others. The saying that “A good leader is one who takes more than their share of the blame and less of the credit” resonates for her. She has learned that leadership requires setting goals, modeling desired behavior, and then letting go and giving people the power to do what you ask them to do, including making mistakes.

Rebecca is also an advocate for women’s political representation. She chairs the board of the top advocacy group, EMILY’s List, a large national organization that works to recruit, train and elect women to political office in the United States.

Residing in New York City with her husband and three children, Rebecca is also an author of “Held at a Distance: My Rediscovery of Ethiopia”, a memoir about her first return to Ethiopia after her family’s forced exile following the 1974 revolution.

Believing that the true change comes from within communities, she encourages engagement with students, parents, and educators to help improve educational outcomes, not just in Ethiopia, but globally. Her message to young people, especially girls, is one of empowerment: “Embrace your uniqueness, seek lifelong learning, and always support each other,” she says.

According to her, the younger generation should to truly understand, love and accept themselves as it can help them make choices that are meaningful and fulfilling in their personal and professional life. “Don’t do things to please others or to assimilate. Keep your uniqueness. It took me a long time to see that and I think especially as girls we worry so much about pleasing others. I would also emphasize that the process of learning and growing truly does unfold over a lifetime. Thus, be receptive to new ideas and people, try new things, don’t be afraid to ask questions and make mistakes, and ask for help when you need it. And for girls and women, support each other,” she advises.

This year Rebecca was honored with the African Impact Award for Transformative Change for her outstanding contributions to education. This accolade recognizes her dedication to creating sustainable change and her ability to inspire others to join the cause.

Her work has also been featured in various publications and platforms, highlighting her innovative approaches and commitment to educational equity.

Many hold Rebecca will continue to be an active member of her community, engaging with students, parents, and educators. She believes in the power of education to change lives and is dedicated to mentoring the next generation of leaders in the educational sector.

Rebecca feels she is transferring knowledge and skills that she has developed over lifetime to her team: diplomacy, creativity, persuading people to join in problem solving, negotiating results that work for everyone, budgeting, fundraising, and marketing on a daily basis

Professor Berhanu, as the school is eager to share best practices and help improve education in Ethiopia more broadly.

Rebecca feels she is transferring knowledge and skills that she has developed over lifetime to her team: diplomacy, creativity, persuading people to join in problem solving, negotiating results that work for everyone, budgeting, fundraising, and marketing on a daily basis. She appreciates collaborating with individuals who are mission driven, creative and those who act with integrity. She believes such collaboration generates superior outcomes as she gets the benefit of different perspectives and expertise.

Leadership for Rebecca is about setting

Society

Ensuring a healthier future for all

BY MENGISTEAB TESHOME

Over the past years, Ethiopia has made remarkable progress in the health sector by addressing the major challenges facing the health sector and attaining significant improvements in accessing quality.

Among the key accomplishments, the expansion of healthcare facilities and services throughout the country is at the frontline.

According to reports from the Ministry of Health, Ethiopia's efforts to extend healthcare access are evident in its extensive network of health facilities. The Health Extension Program, which trains and deploys quite a lot of health extension workers in rural areas, has been a crucial intervention in reaching the underserved sections of the community. This initiative has successfully increased access to essential health services, including maternal and child healthcare services, as well as immunizations and basic medical care.

The report also highlights a notable decline in maternal and child mortality rates, attributable to targeted interventions and enhanced access to prenatal and postnatal care. Initiatives such as providing skilled birth attendants and community-based health education have significantly contributed to these improvements.

Ethiopia has also achieved important milestones in enhancing immunization coverage, leading to a decrease in vaccine-preventable diseases. The government's commitment to routine immunization, along with mass vaccination campaigns, has strengthened the health system's capacity to protect vulnerable groups.

Recent reforms in healthcare have focused on improving efficiency, enhancing service quality, and integrating services across various levels of care. The introduction of a decentralized health system has empowered local health authorities to respond more effectively to community needs.

The health sector has also benefited from strong partnerships with international organizations, nongovernment organizations, and private sector entities. Accordingly, collaborative efforts have facilitated resource mobilization, technical support, and capacity building, which have all enhanced healthcare service delivery.

Recently, the Ministry of Health held its annual review conference under the theme "Transforming primary health care to accelerate progress towards SDG" with the aim to build on the successes achieved so far and to draw lessons from past experiences.

The 26th Health Sector Annual Review Conference, which was carried out for three consecutive days (from November 1-3, 2024) at Arba Minch Town, South Ethiopia State, was a platform that gathered



Health Minister Mekdes Daba (MD)

professionals and stakeholders from the sector and constructive experiences were shared.

Speaking on the occasion, Health Minister Mekdes Daba (MD) said that the conference served as a vital platform for officials to engage with the community. The Ministry of Health reaffirmed its commitment to addressing the questions and recommendations raised by panelists during the discussions.

"The past year was a time that we have started implementing the three years health policy. In this budget year, we set a plan to execute nine strategic health areas. Among these strategic areas, maternal and child health is the one. Significant strides are registered in this area. For instance, 74 percent of mothers have given delivery in health facilities."

584,000 children who could not get regular vaccinations were immunized; preparations are finalized to expand the implementation of the Sekota Declaration to 334 districts in this Ethiopian budget year. Likewise encouraging results were recorded in the prevention of HIV and TB diseases. However, several activities are being done to prevent the increasing incidence of malaria.

The leadership emphasized the importance of focusing on efforts to making this Ethiopian budget year a time dedicated to community service and responsiveness to public inquiries.

While implementing health sector reforms, it is essential to preserve existing strengths and address any gaps, she added.

Health State Minister Dereje Duguma (MD) said that achieving established health goals will require an increase in primary healthcare services and initiatives designed for long-term impact.

He also highlighted the importance of making vaccinations readily accessible,



rather than relying solely on vaccination campaigns. Emphasis should be given to reducing mother-to-child transmission of HIV to below 5 percent, he added.

Opening the conference, South Ethiopia State Chief Administrator Tilahun Kebede said that the government is constructing health institutions to improve the healthcare facilities of the public. Singing the same tune, the South Ethiopia State is implementing various activities to avert stunting and malnourishment by improving the nutrition system in the State.

Similarly, several activities have been done to prevent the spread of epidemics due to climate change by involving the community.

The Chief Administrator also thanked the Ministry of Health and partner organizations for extending a helping hand, treating and rehabilitating victims affected by natural disasters- flood and landslide -in various areas of the State.

South Ethiopia State Health Bureau Head and host of the conference Geshaw Shibru also said that the collaborative efforts of the government, private sector, development partners, and the community are vital for improved health outcomes. "The ultimate impact of health initiatives is felt at the community level, making enhanced community participation essential."

At the conference, leaders signed a document outlining nine key tasks for the health sector to be executed by the Ministry of Health, relevant institutions, and regional health offices in 2017 E.C. This marks a significant step toward achieving the outlined health objectives.

According to the document, despite successes in these areas, several challenges persist, the report noted. Disparities in access to health services remain, particularly between urban and rural areas. Vulnerable populations, including women, children, and the elderly, often face barriers to accessing quality care.

Limited financial and human resources hinder the ability to effectively maintain and expand health services. Increased investment in health infrastructure and workforce training is necessary. Additionally, the dual burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases poses significant challenges. Addressing both types of health issues requires a comprehensive and integrated approach.

The report outlined strategies to ensure continued progress in Ethiopia's health sector. In this respect, the Ministry should strengthen health infrastructure in urban and hinterlands. The investments should focus on improving health facilities, especially in rural areas. Upgrading existing infrastructure and equipping health centers with necessary medical supplies will enhance service delivery.

The other point is expanding community health initiatives through building on the success of the Health Extension Program. To this end, further community health initiatives should be developed. Engaging local communities in health promotion and disease prevention will ensure that services are culturally appropriate and widely accepted.

The Ministry should provide increasing trained healthcare workers across the nation: Strategies should include improving training programs, offering incentives to work in underserved areas, and creating career development opportunities within the health sector.

The recommendation also cited utilizing technology in healthcare delivery. That are using of telemedicine, electronic health records, and mobile health applications are a game changer in enhancing access and efficiency, particularly in remote areas.

By implementing these strategies, Ethiopia can continue to build on its health sector achievements and work towards a healthier future for all its citizens.



Published Weekly in Collaboration with Haramaya University

Health Ministry awards HU's Prof. Nega 'Lifetime Distinguished Professional Service Award'

• *HU congratulates him*

The FDRE Ministry of Health honored Haramaya University's (HU) Professor Nega Assefa with the prestigious Lifetime Distinguished Professional Service Award at the 26th Annual Health Sector Conference, held in Arbaminch, Ethiopia on November 3, 2024.

Professor Nega Assefa, a distinguished researcher at Haramaya University and Co-Principal Investigator of the HHR project, has been recognized for his outstanding contributions to the health sector.

Prof. Nega's career is marked by significant achievements and a strong commitment to public health. Born in Asella, Oromia Regional State, in 1974, he has dedicated his life to improving healthcare outcomes completed his primary education at *Limat Behibret* Primary School and his secondary education at Chilalo Terara Secondary School. He pursued his diploma and degree in Nursing from Jimma University and completed his



Dr. Mekdes Daba, Prof. Nega Assefa and Tilahun Kebed (President of South Ethiopia State)

MSc in Public and Reproductive Health at Addis Ababa University.

He obtained his PhD in Reproductive Health from Haramaya University. He

further enhanced his expertise with a certificate in Global Health Leadership from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical medicine.

In 1993, he began his career as a clinical supervisor at Asella Nursing School. And since 1996, Prof. Nega Assefa has held various leadership positions at Haramaya University and has made substantial contributions to the field through his extensive research. His 157 research papers have been published both nationally and internationally prominent journals showcasing his innovative approach and dedication to scientific inquiry.

Haramaya University extends its warmest congratulations to Prof. Nega Assefa on this well-deserved honor. His exceptional achievements serve as an inspiration to aspiring researchers and healthcare professionals alike.

Source:- *Haramaya University Public and International Relations Directorate*



Published Weekly in Cooperation with Dambi Dollo University

DaDU's initiatives in dairy cow

BY DIRRIBA TESHOME

The establishment of Dambi Dollo University (DaDU), although recent in the context of the nation's higher education, it is actively engaged in agricultural initiatives designed to transform social life.

Dr. Gemechu Fufa, Vice President of Academic, Research, Technology Transfer, and Community Service at Dambi Dollo University, provided an update on the agricultural integrated research center.

He noted that the center collaborates with the National Research Center, engaging in effective practices and scientific research aimed at enhancing agricultural productivity. The research efforts are yielding positive outcomes, which are being integrated into educational activities for students and shared as valuable insights with local farmers.



Calves of the breeds

He emphasized that a primary objective of the Agricultural Research Center is to enhance research initiatives and improve the productivity of cattle and dairy operations, ultimately resulting in higher milk production. This improvement is intended to support the local community while also contributing to the university's revenue generation.

Soressa Shuma (Assistant Professor), who serves as a lecturer and director at the Center for Integrated Agricultural Research at Dambi Dollo University, stated that the



Cows in the barn

center is effectively addressing agricultural challenges both within the region and across the country.

The center, which initiated research on 20 enhanced breeds of cows in 2015, has now expanded its herd to 50 cows, according to him. The improved breed cows currently yield between 20 to 36 liters of milk daily per cow, and efforts are being made to boost this production to 60 liters per day.

It focused on developing superior dairy cow breeds by integrating Horro breeding with Holstein genetics, utilizing research

and technology to identify a unique breed capable of producing higher quality milk, he stated.

DaDU's initiatives in dairy cow management, in line with community services and research efforts, provide significant advantages to students pursuing studies in agriculture and DVM. These students, who have acquired theoretical knowledge about cows in the classroom, are afforded the opportunity to apply this knowledge practically within a laboratory-supported setting at the research center.



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260