



# ETHIOPIA TODAY

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## AAU Awards Honorary Degree to Bill Gates



Addis Ababa University conferred an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters on William Henry Gates on July 24 2014 at a convocation at the University, attended by Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn, Foreign Minister Tedros Adhanom and the Speaker of the House of Federation, Kassa Tekleberhane, as well as Ministers, Ambassadors, members of the University Senate and staff and students.

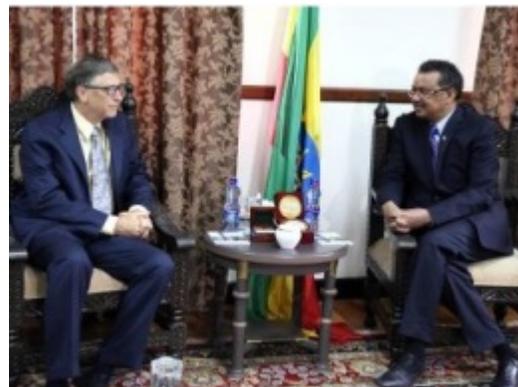
Dr. Admasu Tsegaye, President of Addis Ababa University, read the citation for the degree. He noted Bill Gates' business acumen, and his vision for software which had inspired innovations that has improved the life of many. He underlined Gates commitment to corporate philanthropy and his creation of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in 2000. The citation notes this is now the world's largest philanthropic organization focusing on reducing poverty and improving health and economic opportunity in Sub-Saharan

Africa and South Asia as well as on giving young people in the United States access to a good education.

Since its foundation, it has contributed more than US\$30 billion in support of charitable initiatives around the world. The citation says "what you are doing in Africa makes you a special friend and advocate of the afflicted". It notes the work done for "agricultural development, financial services for the poor, primary health care, water and sanitation, HIV, malaria, polio and vaccine delivery. It enables more people, especially women and youth, to benefit from the economic opportunities of the continent."

It concludes by stressing that "Your generous support for the continent is making a difference in the lives of many people in South Africa, Kenya, Uganda, Senegal, Malawi, Tanzania, Nigeria and Zambia", as well as in Ethiopia. (MoFA)

## Dr. Tedros meets Bill and Melinda Gates



The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Tedros Adhanom met Bill and Melinda Gates, the founders of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and owners of Microsoft Company, on July 24 2014.

Dr. Tedros thanked the Foundation for the significant support it has given to the health sector in Ethiopia and that the partnership with the Foundation was highly valuable for the country.

Referring to the effort to eradicate polio, Dr. Tedros pointed out that Ethiopia was cooperating with other countries in the region, especially Somalia, since it was impossible to eradicate Polio unilaterally.

Gates, who welcomed Ethiopia's willingness to cooperate with the foundation, said he had witnessed significant progress in the Ethiopian health sector. Areas for future progress and development, he suggested, included increasing supplies of contraceptives, greater accessibility to pastoralist communities and persuading people of the importance of using the system.

### **Ambassador Berhane meets Korea's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs**



State Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Berhane Gebre-Christos held talks with a South

Korean delegation lead by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Lee Kyung-Soo on July 11. Welcoming the Deputy Minister, Ambassador Berhane noted that the two countries share a historic and strong relationship. He expressed Ethiopia's strong desire to draw lessons from Korea's spectacular economic development. He also stressed the need to expand areas of cooperation between Ethiopia and Korea, particularly in trade and development and said Ethiopia would like to see more investment inflow from South Korean businesses.

He asked the South Korean government to encourage this. Ambassador Berhane emphasized that the Ethiopian government highly appreciated the support provided by Korea to a number of infrastructure projects across the country. He also used the opportunity to brief the Korean Deputy Minister on several major economic projects currently in progress. Mr. Lee Kyung-Soo paid homage to the Ethiopian soldiers who fought and sacrificed their lives in Korea for "freedom and democracy", and noted that his visit to Ethiopia was important "to reconfirm my government's commitment to strengthen bilateral relations in exploring new areas of cooperation." He said South Korea was committed to share its experience in nation building, industrialization and technological development, and it would extend support to the Mojo-Hawassa railway project and the installation of electric transmission lines in various parts of the country. He said it was important to maximize synergy and interaction in economic areas and added that Ethiopia's robust growth was indication of a bright future for the country. The Deputy Minister also appreciated the contribution of Ethiopia to help create peace in East Africa, in South Sudan and Somalia in particular. He said South Korea

would like to work in close cooperation with Ethiopia in international and regional issues.

## News

### **UK Ambassador : Economic Development in Ethiopia very Impressive**

UK Ambassador to Ethiopia Greg Dorey said the consecutive economic development registered in Ethiopia over the past years is “very impressive”.

In an exclusive interview with ENA, the Ambassador said the development in Ethiopia is “very impressive” and “potentially sustainable” as well if the government continues to take the right decisions. “I think it is very impressive whether you take the government’s figures or you take IMF figures ... in terms of GDP growth. That is very, very impressive and its potentially sustainable growth as well if the government takes the right decisions on the economy then that growth can continue into the future.”

The economic growth in Ethiopia has been accompanied by a huge social investment in human development.

The Ambassador appreciates the strides that have been taken in improving the health, education and social well being of the people.

“Of course, this has been accompanied by a huge social investment in human development which is equally important. And you can see the tremendous strides that have been taken in improving the health, education and social well being of the people in Ethiopia really is very

acknowledgeable what has been done in a relatively small space of time.”

The bilateral relation between Ethiopia and UK is ‘very diverse, mutually beneficial and very good’ according to the Ambassador.

“Our bilateral development cooperation is the biggest such program in the world for Ethiopia it has been for some years and is expected to continue to be.”

UK provides over 300 million pounds sterling annually to Ethiopia in connection with development programs.

Trade and investment relationship is also taking off from a ‘low base’. UK imports of goods from Ethiopia have grown by 48 percent from 48 million pound sterling in 2009 to 70 million pound sterling in 2013. In the same period UK exports to Ethiopia have also grown by 29 percent from 77 million pounds sterling to 99 million pounds sterling.

Climate change is one of the areas the two countries are working together.

The ambassador recognizes the efforts of the government to create a climate resilient, green economy by 2025 and achieving a middle income status with zero carbon emissions.

Ambassador Dorey said the Climate Resilient Green Economy Policy of Ethiopia can be a model to other countries.

“It is an absolutely adorable policy. I could recommend it highly enough not just for Ethiopia but it’s a model for other countries as well.’ The UK government is putting 45 million pounds sterling into this area partly into creating or enhancing institutions which deal with climate change both public and private.

In addition to Ethiopia, Sudan, Kenya, Angola, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Algeria, Burkina Faso, and Niger were elected from the African continent.

Ethiopia is expected to dedicate its time to coordinate its efforts with elected countries of Africa to jointly promote Africa's position for the term of 2014-2017 on various issues including migration, employment, and human trafficking.

### **Workshop on MDG 5 concluded**



A three-day conference aiming at ways of expediting efforts to attain MDG-5, improvement of maternal health, was held in Addis Ababa.

Delegates from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, DRC, India, Indonesia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sudan and Tanzania attended the conference.

In a keynote address to the conference Ethiopia's Minister of Health, Dr. Kesetebirhan Admasu noted that Ethiopia had brought about positive results in reducing maternal mortality rate by 69% over the past two decades.

This, he said, was a meaningful achievement that testified to the nation's commitment to the attainment of MDG-5 and improvements in maternal health.

He said "If we keep up the tremendous efforts made over the past years, the country will meet its

MDG 5 target." He further underlined that Ethiopia's family planning, operating through the provision of modern contraceptive methods, the training and deployment of skilled health personnel and other activities were major drivers in reducing maternal mortality.

He said other countries with a high burden of maternal mortality could draw lessons from Ethiopia's experiences in maternal health to meet the target. He noted that Ethiopia is also ready to learn from India and Bangladesh over extending quality health services, providing medical equipment and medicines as well as utilizing technology in the provision of modern health services. The Minister also noted Ethiopia had made substantial progress in reducing under-five mortality and new HIV infections by 77% and 90%, respectively, adding that it had reduced malaria and TB by 60%.

UN Population Fund's Country Representative, Faustin Yao remarked that halting preventable mortality would contribute a lot for the health of women and advance the agenda for sustainable development. (MoFA)

### **US Assistant Secretary Lauds Ethiopia's Treatment of Refugees**

The United State Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration visited shelters and camps for refugees in the Gambella Regional State on July 11, 2014. On the occasion, Mrs. Anne Richard stated that the humanitarian assistance Ethiopia has been providing for refugees was admirable and commendable. She also said she had been able to observe that the Ethiopian government is providing necessary support and protection for the refugees displaced by the conflict in South Sudan. She said she was very depressed to see that 70%

of the refugees were children and pledged that her government would continue supporting the refugees. She also had the chance to witness similar treatment given to refugees from Eritrea during her visit to the Tigray Regional State. The Assistant Secretary, who noted that the borders of Ethiopia have been open to refugees, thanked the Government and the people of Ethiopia for the assistance they extended to refugees.

United Nations High Commission for Refugees Country Representative (UNHCR), Bornwell Katande, also underlined that the policy of Ethiopia with regard to refugees was open and

unrestricted, adding that Ethiopia had been accommodating large numbers of refugees from South Sudan, Somalia, Eritrea and other neighboring countries for the past two decades. At present, the country was providing the necessary assistance and protection for many South Sudanese refugees who fled the conflict; and according to the Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA), the number of South Sudanese refugees has now exceeded 200,000. Mr. Katande urged the people and the Government of Ethiopia to continue supporting the refugees.

## Business and Economy

### U.S, European Investment Growing Rapidly

U.S and European investment in Ethiopia has been increasing over the past few years and its proportion is becoming equivalent with Asian investment.

Of the total 40.61 billion Birr foreign direct investment that came to Ethiopia between mid 2010 and mid 2014, the share of US and European investment is over 19.27 billion Birr, about 47 percent, according to the data.

Over the past 10 years Chinese and Indian investment had the lion's share in Ethiopia, but now the situation is changed. US and European investment has become nearly equivalent to the Asian investment, Getahun Negash, Public Relation Director with the Investment Agency told ENA.

"When we see the FDI flow over the past ten years, most of the investment comes from Asian countries especially China and India. But now investment flows at nearly equal rate from Europe, America and Asia."

The year 2011 was the starting point for US and European investment to boost in Ethiopia and the trend has continued in the subsequent years.

During the just concluded budget year (2006E.C), US and Turkey stand second next to China in terms of number of projects (106) and aggregate capital (8.5 billion Birr) respectively.

US investment reaches the highest stage in 2012 in which 194 projects with 1.4 billion Birr aggregate capital were licensed and employed 5732 individuals temporarily, or permanently.

European investment is also increasing, since 2011, when 29 projects with 4.6 billion Birr projects were licensed. Some 192 projects with a

combined capital of 15.5 billion Birr were licensed during the past four years.

Although number of projects of European companies are low compared to the US, the aggregate capital of European projects is bigger than the latter, with 15.5 billion Birr.

Ethiopia's fastest economic growth over the past decade changes its relation with the U.S from aid and donation to economic partnership, according to Amb. Taye Atsikeselassie, American Affairs Director- General with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Ambassador Taye stated that the involvement of giant US companies in the Ethiopian economy is a success to the country because of the fact that their involvement here encourages others to come.

He noted that U.S investment is different from other countries' investments in its rich knowledge and technology package and it will have an immense role in knowledge and technology transfer in the country and introduce new ways of doing things.

Most of the U.S projects are in the areas of energy development, agribusiness, IT and aviation.

Due to the rigorous works of all stakeholders to attract US investment, the country that had no business with the US a few years ago appears in the map of America's investment destination, Amb. Taye added.

Similarly, Spokesperson of the Ministry Amb. Dina Mufti said that the sustainable economic growth, availability of land and cheap labour are major factors that attract giant European companies to Ethiopia, "This year we have seen a couple of companies, various delegations from biggest European countries like Germany, Finland and others who come to Ethiopia with a

significant group of business delegations that have in fact undertaken networking with Ethiopian business counterparts."

He said Ethiopia's economic relation with Europe create opportunities for Ethiopian products to get access to European market and European investment in infrastructure, road development, service delivery and other sectors would help the country's efforts to prosper.

He said the European investment has an 'immense' role for technology and knowledge transfer and the country should strive to benefit more from Europe's huge potential.

The government is introducing a single electronic window service to end bureaucracy and provide uniform service for investors.

The system involves various government organs engaged in land administration, telecom, electric and water supply, as well as the Development Bank of Ethiopia and Commercial Bank of Ethiopia, among others.

## **Ethiopian Takes Delivery of Dreamliner**



The Ethiopian Airlines announced that it took delivery of the eighth Boeing 787 Dreamliner on 26 June 2014.

According to the press release Ethiopian Airlines sent to the ENA on July 3, 2014 delivery of the

eightth Boeing 787 Dreamliner will enable the airline to fulfil its green corporate social responsibility with greatly reduced carbon footprint.

Currently, Ethiopian is the largest operator of the Boeing 787 in Africa in serving routes to Africa, Brazil, Europe, the U.S, Canada and China, the release said.

In a related news the Ethiopian Airlines has named the same 787 Dreamliner after the Taj Mahal, India's most famous monument. It is the first time that the airline has named an aircraft or its Dreamliner fleet after a historical or heritage

site outside Africa, and it is a clear recognition of the substantial traffic generated on its routes to the Indian subcontinent. It will strengthen the already established relations with India as the airline has an increasing number of Indian travelers. Ethiopian Airlines has named its previous seven Boeing 787s as Africa First, Lucy, Queen of Sheba, Lake Tana, Walia Ibex and Serengeti, all Ethiopian and African sites.

The Ethiopian Airlines will take delivery of further two Boeing 787s in 2014. The Ethiopian was the first in the world outside Japan to receive the Boeing 787 in August 2012.

## TOURISM and CULTURE

### Simien Park to Get \$1bln Hotel



African Wildlife Capital, a mission-based investment company has signed agreements with a British-Ethiopian venture to build a world-class

boutique hotel in Ethiopia's Simien Mountains

National Park, one of the heritages of Ethiopia inscribed by UNESCO.

Limalimo Lodge will offer high-end accommodation, tailor-made activities, and gourmet cuisine in one of the most beautiful places in the world, according to a press release the Lodge sent to ENA.

The Lodge, funded by African Wildlife Capital with one billion USD, scheduled to open in the fall of 2015 and bring benefits to the area's wildlife and people

The investment will bring tangible benefits to the neighboring Limalimo community by employing locals to both help during the construction phase and to work at the lodge once open.

Shifteraw Asrat, CEO of Limalimo Lodge, said together with the African Wildlife Capital, African Wildlife Foundation, and the Ethiopian Wildlife and Conservation Authority, "we can develop long-term, sustainable conservation practices in the Simien Mountains and showcase the potential for well-managed tourism projects in Ethiopia."

As the lodge draws more visitors to the Park, it will generate 'much-needed' revenue through conservation fees to the Authority and establish a financially and environmentally sustainable model for conservation tourism that can be replicated across other parks in Ethiopia, the statement said.

Listed as a World Heritage Site in 1978 by UNESCO, Simien Mountains National Park offers dramatic mountain scenery with a wide variety of endemic fauna and flora, including the Gelada monkey and the Walia Ibex, a type of mountain goat.

It offers excellent trekking opportunities, including Ethiopia's highest mountain Ras Dashen/Dejen.

The area, which is under threat from livestock grazing and agricultural sprawl, was put on UNESCO's List of World Heritage in Danger as a result of declines in a number of native species.

African Wildlife Capital hopes to improve conservation around Simien Mountains through its investment in sustainable tourism.

"We have seen how lodges like Limalimo can play a key role in the conservation of sensitive areas such as the Simien Mountains National Park," said African Wildlife Capital Investment Manager Giles Davies. "In Ethiopia, tourism is still in its infancy but is growing fast, and rarely have we been able to engage with a country during this stage of tourism development."

"The Simien Mountains, a key tourist destination in the country, will benefit, both from a socioeconomic and conservation perspective, from a well-managed and thoughtfully constructed lodge such as Limalimo."

Solomon Tadesse, the director of the newly established Ethiopian Tourism Organization, acknowledged the benefits the lodge will bring to both wildlife and people. "This is a tremendous investment in Ethiopia," said Tadesse. "This public-private partnership will create jobs for the local community as well as improve Ethiopia's national parks," according to the release. (ENA)

