



ETHIOPIA TODAY

Newsletter of the Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia in Canada

Vol. III No.4 July 2016

Israeli Prime Minister Visits Ethiopia



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu paid an official visit to Ethiopia on 7 July 2016. His visit to Addis Ababa promised to make full use of the potential as well as the creativity of Ethio-Israeli ties. The public diplomacy, business, and political aspects of his visit set Ethio-Israeli ties on a new journey of scientific and economic links and his speech to the House of Representatives promised a new era of joint progress as well as continued growth of bilateral ties between Ethiopia and Israel. The visit underlined the importance of stimulating existing ties with a full range of diplomatic activity, encompassing all aspects of government as well as public diplomacy.

The governmental level of diplomatic activity featured the high-level talks between Prime Minister Hailemariam and Prime Minister Netanyahu as well as

the signing of agreements on science, technology and tourism. It underlines the readiness of both countries to cooperate to reaffirm and reactivate their age-old links and stabilize, and expand, bilateral relations. Cooperation in the sphere of scientific diplomacy represented a major innovation, reflecting the expected role and strategic attention to be given to science and technology as driving engines of Ethio-Israeli diplomacy as well as foreign policy in the future. Israel is now going to share its rich experience in space science, bioscience and nanotechnology with Ethiopia. At the signing of the agreements, Prime Minister Hailemariam stressed Ethiopia's interest to draw lessons from Israel's rich experience, noting, in particular, the areas of agriculture, irrigation and water use. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu underlined that his visit to Ethiopia was aimed "at further elevating the over 3,000-year old bilateral relations of Ethiopia and Israel to a higher level."

In relation to economic diplomacy, an Ethio-Israeli Business Forum was held on July 7, 2016, offering a blueprint for a mutually cooperative partnership in innovation, science and technology. Addressing the Forum, Prime Minister Hailemariam stressed that the business summit would provide extra momentum to strengthen the two countries' long-lasting fraternal relations in important areas of cooperation, in investment, trade and technology transfer. He recalled Ethiopia and Israel had a number of economic and technical cooperation agreements. He said Ethiopia gave full importance to the ongoing technology and

skill transfer extended through the Israel Agency for International Development Cooperation (MASHAV). The flow of Foreign Direct Investment over the past twenty-five years had now reached to about US\$330 million. However, the Prime Minister said, it was now time to boost this, “by expanding our level of cooperation, increasing the growing flow of FDI in areas of horticulture, integrated annual farming, crop production and manufacturing to a higher level.” He also mentioned renewable energy, ICT development and mining as other areas that could interest both sides to collaborate and work together.

Prime Minister Netanyahu, underlining Israel’s firm determination to continue its commitment to advance technological research, stressed that: “the future belongs to those who can innovate. Nothing evades technology.” He said Ethiopia was open to Israel’s business, and he called on the participants and other Israeli businesses to invest in Ethiopia and for Ethiopian businesses to invest in Israel’s knowledge and technological expertise. Prime Minister Netanyahu’s delegation included more than forty business leaders from Israel; representatives of more than 90 Ethiopian companies also attended. In all, more than 250 business representatives from over 130 companies attended the Forum.

The visit of Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu to Ethiopia, the first by an Israeli Prime Minister, was the conclusion of a visit to East Africa that took him to Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda and Ethiopia. In Uganda, Prime Minister Netanyahu also participated in a regional summit on counter-terrorism. The meeting, attended by President Museveni of Uganda, President Kenyatta of Kenya, President Kagame of Rwanda, Prime Minister Hailemariam of Ethiopia, President Kiir of South Sudan, President Lungu of Zambia and Dr. Augustine Mahiga, Foreign Minister of Tanzania, agreed upon the importance of encouraging new avenues of co-operation based on human capacity building and the utilization of new innovative technologies to confront the scourge of terrorism.

Non-Permanent Membership of the UNSC to Improve Ethiopia’s Status

Ethiopia has secured a non-permanent seat in the UN Security Council (UNSC), the most important governing body in the United Nations. It will serve as a two-year term commencing in January 2017.

This year, with the full backing of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union given at the 26th Ordinary Session of the Assembly, Ethiopia put its name forward to obtain the required two-thirds of votes from the 193 members of the General Assembly to win the African seat. Impressively, in the first round of voting, Ethiopia managed to secure overwhelming support with 185 countries out of the 190 United Nations member states in favor.

Ethiopia is particularly pleased to have been elected to the United Nations Security Council as a non-permanent member as this will position the country to be in a far better position to contribute effectively to the lofty goals for which the United Nations was established. The United Nations Security Council will provide a forum in which Ethiopia and other elected representatives will be able to define common ground for development in a wide variety of areas, not least climate change. The significance of this kind of opportunity gains further importance in times when problems can no longer be addressed only on a national level but require global solutions.

Membership provides for greater ability to effectively influence the decisions even among states like Ethiopia that contribute significantly to the United Nations peacekeeping. Ethiopia is a country with a strong interest in United Nations peacekeeping, troop deployment and other security issues and knows it can better pursue its own

interests and those of Africa as a United Nations Security Council member. Membership, in fact, enables Ethiopia to advance its support for peacekeeping operations as well as encourage advancement of cooperation between the UN and regional and sub regional organizations on pressing issues such as terrorism and climate change. Ethiopia is very clear that dealing with terrorist groups like Al-Shabaab requires extensive international cooperation, especially in intelligence sharing and preventing terrorist fund raising activities.

Other advantages of membership of the Security Council include having the chance to look more closely at situations threatening international peace and security, as well as being able to recommend procedures for peaceful resolution of disputes as well as the ability to comment on issues deliberated by Security Council. It allows a country to improve the possibility of taking up a more effective position to help deflect attempts to encourage negative influences from whatever quarter.

Membership allows for a state to raise certain issues as well as take an active part in council discussions. Both can have an important impact of the outcome. Membership, indeed, offers recognition of Ethiopia's relevance, and significance, in the world order of the 21st century. It will also allow Ethiopia to expand its diplomatic circle and assist in helping to attract increased levels of foreign direct investment.

One of the most important advantages, of course, is that membership also provides an important platform for Ethiopia to promote African and third world causes. Ethiopia has long been a strong proponent for the promotion of Africa's rightful place in the global arena. The election to the Security Council will present an important

opportunity for Ethiopia to advance and safeguard African interests further, something that it has already emphasized that it will ensure happens during the next two years.

A Damning UN Human Rights Council Resolution Passed on Eritrea

The UN Human Rights Council in Geneva accepted, on July 1, 2016, resolution 32/24 which endorsed the Commission of Inquiry's report into Human Rights Abuses in Eritrea. The resolution was proposed by Djibouti and Somalia and endorsed the Commission's findings. Among its 19 recommendations, it reiterates the calls on the Government of Eritrea to end the use of arbitrary detention, put an end to the system of indefinite national service and to allow unhindered access to the country to further missions of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, including the consideration for the Office to be based inside the country. It calls for Eritrea to resolve a range of systematic abuses, including extrajudicial killings, torture and indefinite detention as well as permanent national service and forced labor. It called for the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea to be extended for a further year

The Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights welcomed the strong resolution on Human Rights in Eritrea. Chairman Mike Smith said the human rights violations over the past 25 years, had now taken a step closer to being realized. He reiterated that Eritrea was an authoritarian State with no independent judiciary, no national assembly and there are no other democratic institutions in Eritrea. This, he said, has created a governance and rule of law vacuum, resulting in a climate of impunity for crimes against humanity to be perpetrated over a quarter of a century. These crimes are still

occurring today. Mr. Smith said the Commission hoped that Resolution 32/24 would provide a solid platform for the next steps to be taken by the Government of Eritrea, in partnership with the international community, and will bring justice for the Eritrean people. It also welcomed the resolution's strong encouragement for the African Union to follow up on the report and recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry by establishing an investigation, supported by the international community, with a view to examining and bringing to justice those responsible for violations and abuses of human rights.

In its report, first published on June 8, the Commission made recommendations to eight parties: the State of Eritrea; the UN Human Rights Council; the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights; the UN General Assembly; the UN Security Council, the African Union; Member States; and Transnational Corporations. The resolution responded to this by referring the Commission of Inquiry report and all its recommendations, to the United Nations and its relevant organs for consideration and urgent action. This covers the UN General Assembly and includes the UN Security Council as well as the UN Secretary-General and also the African Union.

The 27th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the AU

The 27th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Heads of State and Government of the African Union was held in the Kigali Convention Centre in Rwanda's capital Kigali from July 17-18, 2016. The meeting, under this year's theme of "2016: African Year of Human Rights with a particular focus on the Rights of Women" successfully concluded with a call for

togetherness, inclusive growth and economic development through Agenda 2063.

Opening the Summit, Rwandan President Paul Kagame welcomed the African Heads of State and Government and underlined the fact that Africa was 'rising'. He stressed that this was the result of the activities of the peoples of Africa, adding that such an understanding creates unity among the African nations and ensure committed service by continental leaders. President Kagame also noted the importance of forging partnerships with other countries outside the continent in a bid to widen and deepen Africa's cooperation with the rest of the world.

The Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, in her keynote speech, recalled the solemn promise of Africa's Heads of State and Government on the importance of peace and security and the need to silence the guns. She said lessons could be drawn from some parts of Africa that peace was possible, but she also noted that men, women and children in countries like Burundi, Mali, South Sudan and Somalia, were still suffering from conflict. Placing special emphasis on South Sudan and with the view to moving South Sudan's peace process forward, Dr. Zuma welcomed the meeting of IGAD leaders and ministers held the previous day. She said IGAD had acted swiftly "and I'm sure the decision of IGAD meeting would work to ensure a lasting peace and stability to the peoples of South Sudan." The Chairperson also stressed, despite the lack of peace and stability in some parts of the continent, that the "Africa we have, is full of hope, possibility and optimism". She acknowledged the resilience of the peoples of Africa and the strides that many countries had made towards eradicating poverty and transforming their economies.

At the end of the Summit, the Chairperson of the AU, President Idriss Deby Itno of Chad, President Paul Kagame of Rwanda, the host for the Summit, and Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Chairperson of the AU Commission, held a press conference. Dr. Zuma concluded: "African countries should maintain this

spirit of togetherness and start working together on action plans to foster economic development for the entire continent. This Summit has indicated that we can

achieve great things and overcome all challenges if we work in unity.”

Business and Economy

Hawassa Industrial Park Inaugurated

The Hawassa eco-industrial park that attracted 15 leading global apparel and textile companies was inaugurated on July 13, 2016, in the presence of Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn and other high-level officials. Construction of the park, the first of its kind in the country, cost more than 250 million USD and built in record time of less than one year.

The park is implementing Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) that enables to recycle 85 percent of sewerage disposal water and fulfills international standards.

Covering an area of 1.3 million square meters, of which 300, 000-meter square is factory shed build up area, the park has additional area allocated for shared facilities.

It also accommodates all government services including One Stop Shop.

Some 15 leading textile and garment companies from America, China, India, Sri Lanka and six local companies are ready to start operation in the park.

Upon becoming fully operational, industries within the park are expected to create 60,000 jobs in double shift.

The revenue the nation earns from textiles and garment is expected to hit one billion USD from the current 150 million USD per annum, upon going fully operational.

The park will be used as a model for other industrial parks to be built in other parts of the country such as Dire Dawa, Kombolcha, Adama and Mekele.(ENA)

JETRO Opens Office in Addis



The opening of Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) office in Addis Ababa would contribute in drawing more Japanese investment to Ethiopia, according to Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn.

The Premier said the decision to open JETRO office in Addis Ababa is a clear indication of Japanese commitment to strengthen economic partnership with Africa in general, particularly with Ethiopia.

Hailemariam was joined by Foreign Affairs Minister Dr. Tedros Adhanom, JETRO Chairman and CEO, Mr. Hiroyuki Ishige, Japanese investors and representatives

of the Ethiopian private sector in inaugurating the office.

On the occasion, the Premier encouraged more Japanese investors to make use of the ample investment opportunity in the country.

He said the JETRO office would further strengthen investment and trade relation between the two nations.

“I have strong conviction that the longstanding bond between the two countries would further grow deeply,” the Premier remarked.

He also urged the government of Japan to encourage and support Japanese private companies to invest in Ethiopia.

“We are developing industrial parks across the country as well as the nation has been playing vital role in infrastructure connectivity with neighboring countries by the construction of road and railway,” he said.

Hailemariam referred to Japanese engagement in geothermal energy development in Ethiopia as a vital initiative for industrial development.

“I hope we can get the advantages of working with Japan in enhancing geothermal power generation,” added the Premier.

Hiroiyuki Ishige, Chairperson and CEO of JETRO said the JETRO Addis Ababa office aims to draw investment to Ethiopia, promote export, cooperate on skills development and capacity building as well as trade and investment.

Japanese Ambassador to Ethiopia Kazuhiro Suzuki spoke on behalf of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe saying the JETRO office in Ethiopia would contribute to connect Ethiopian and Japanese businesses to further promote trade and investment on both sides.

It was indicated that the opening of JETRO Addis Ababa was in response to a request directly made by Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn to Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on the latter's visit to Ethiopia in January 2014.

JETRO is a government related organization that works to promote mutual trade and investment between Japan and the rest of the world. (ENA)

Guiyang Eco-Forum Conference: Ethiopia's Green Economy Path

Ethiopia participated in the "Eco-Forum Global Annual Conference 2016" held in the city of Guiyang, in Guizhou Province of China, between July 8 and 10, 2016. Guiyang was chosen as the site of the conference as the city has been closely associated with efforts to provide eco-friendly sustainable development in the last few years. The conference, under the theme of "Embracing New Era of Eco-Civilization: Advancing Green Development, Unifying Knowledge and Action", attracted over a thousand delegates from 72 countries, including ministers, senior officials, ambassadors, UN officials, experts, entrepreneurs and international to share opinions and expertise on climate and ecological issues. The conference provided a platform for dialogue and strategic cooperation between China and the rest of the world and showcased many explicit practices on ecological civilization construction.

The Eco-Global Forum is playing a vital role in providing an interactive platform and pulling together the successes and experiences of actual players relating to climate resilient green economy strategies. It offers a robust platform to respond to the ongoing dynamic and evolving green development issues across the globe and a green vehicle to facilitate the interaction of both public

and private actors in green development and international cooperation to tackle climate change.

2015 provided important milestones for sustainable development and cooperation. There was the adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development in July 2015 in Addis Ababa, affirming strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing an enabling environment for sustainable development, as well as a commitment to develop an economic platform to coordinate investment in resilient infrastructures and technology facilitation mechanisms.

“Ethiopia has Become a Priority Destination for German Investors”: Head of the German African Business Association

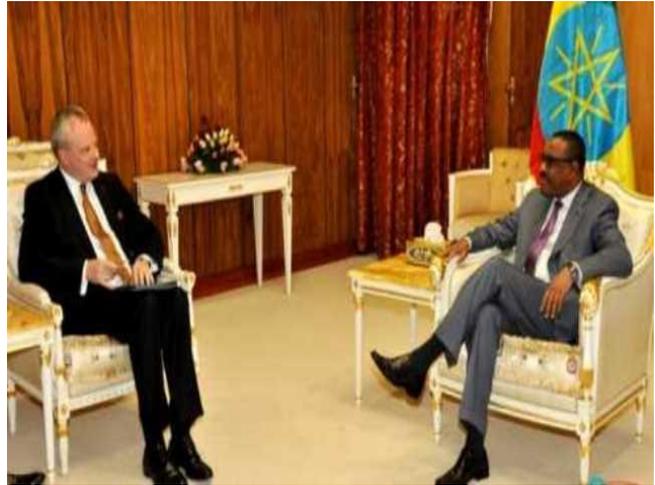
Chairman of German African Business Association, Stefan Liebing, during his meeting

with Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn on July 19, 2016 said Ethiopia has become a priority destination for German investors

The two sides dealt at length on ways of boosting the flow of investment from Germany to Ethiopia.

While welcoming German companies growing interest to invest in Ethiopia, Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn encouraged the companies to invest in energy and other sectors which he said

could contribute to the country's economic transformation.



The Premier also called on German companies to take part in the ‘First International Agro-Industry Investment Forum Ethiopia, scheduled to take place from 5-7 October 2016 in Addis Ababa

Chairman of German African Business Association, Stefan Liebing, on his part said the current meeting is an extension of the business round-table made between Prime Minister Hailemariam and German investors in Berlin, one that was held with the view to put in place an enabling investment platform for German companies to work together with the government and the private sector.

German companies are keen to invest in agriculture, manufacturing, automotive and infrastructure sectors, Liebing added.

Tourism and Culture

Premier calls on Stakeholders to Make Nation Among the Best Tourist Destinations in the World

Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn urged the Ethiopian Tourism Transformation Council (ETTC) to utilize resources of the country and

make the nation one of the best tourist destinations in the world.

Speaking at the official launching of the Ethiopian tourism brand dubbed “Land of Origins” the premier called on ETTC to work with the private sector and develop the tourism potential of the nation. According to him, encouraging results have been attained after the government started implementing its Tourism Policy and Strategy.

He, however, stressed that the tourism project should be developed to make the sector competitive in the global market. Attention needs to therefore be given to national parks, historical sites, diverse cultural heritages and other tourism potentials, the PM added.

Chief Executive Director of Ethiopian Tourism Organization, Solomon Tadesse on his part said his organization targeted tourism marketing development, capacity building, development of new and old tourist destinations as well as cooperation and integration with stakeholders during the First Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP I).



"We have been striving to realize our vision of maximizing tourism revenues and to make Ethiopia

one of the top five tourist destinations in Africa by 2025. This requires achieving ambitious market growth targets which include an increase in tourism arrivals at an average annual rate of 20% per annum to 5 million tourists, and increasing also receipts per visitor at an average annual rate of 1.6% to USD1,100 and increasing total tourism receipts at an average annual rate of 20% per annum to USD 12.5 billion," Solomon elaborated.

The Chief Executive Officer indicated lack of infrastructure, capable human resource, accessibility, accommodations and hotels among the challenges the tourism sector faced in GTP I.

Responding to these and the other problems raised by the participants at the meeting, Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn said the government, the private sector and other stakeholders should exert the maximum effort to solve the problems in the Second Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP II).

