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DIPLOMATIC NEWS

Meles says High-Level Advisory Group on Climate Change Financing identifies financial sources



Group Picture of the High-Level Advisory Group

Addis Ababa, April 3, 2010 - Prime Minister Meles Zenawi said high level Advisory Group on Climate

Change Financing has identified various financial sources to help developing countries combat climate change and set directives for further activities

Prime Minister Meles and [Former] British Prime Minister Gordon Brown co-chaired the first meeting of the group held in London, UK. Meles told the Ethiopian Radio and Television Agency that the meeting assessed ways of getting financial sources through air and marine transport and, the right of the International Monetary Fund to print money and implementation of new taxes, among others.

He said the meeting has set up three committees to assess the stated alternatives and pass recommendations. The first committee will assess governmental financial sources while the second private financial sources and the

third committee undertake administrative work.

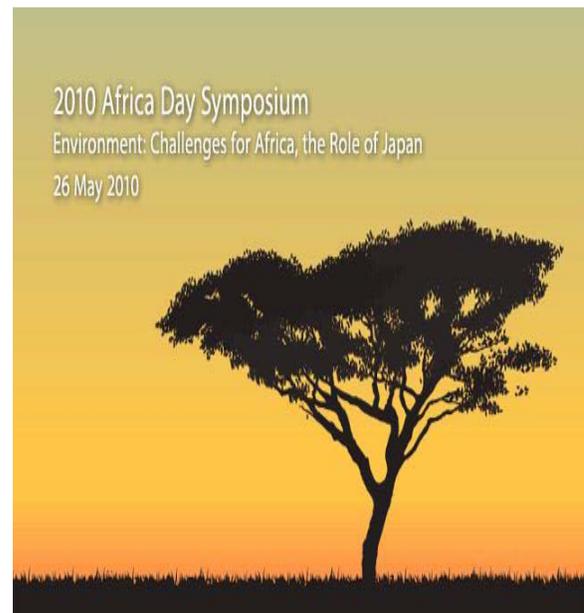
The high-level advisory group to mobilize the climate change financing promised in Copenhagen was assigned by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. The Group's mission is to mobilize financial resources through the development of practical proposals to significantly scale up both short and long-term financing for mitigation and adaptation strategies in developing countries. The Group will also investigate how to jump-start the mobilization of new and innovative resources from both the public and private sector.

The group discharges its responsibilities as per the framework of the recommendation set during the Copenhagen climate change conference. The recommendation states in article 8 and 9 that financial support to be given to developing countries to help them combat climate change between 2010-2020 will be secured from various sources including governments, the private sector, bilateral and international institutions.

The Advisory Group is expected to submit its final report to Ban before the next conference of parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Mexico later this year.

Source: ENA

***Message of the Prime Minister
Delivered at Africa Day
Symposium***



Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and Chairperson of the Conference of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC) H.E. Mr. Meles Zenawi delivered a message at the Africa Day Symposium held on 26th May

2010 in Tokyo at the United Nations University under the theme “Environment: Challenges for Africa, the Role of Japan”. The Ambassador of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to Japan, H.E. Mr. Abdirashid Dulane read the message of the Prime Minister at the symposium.



H.E. Amb. Abdirashid delivering the message of the Prime Minister

In his Message, H.E. Mr. Meles stated that the historic responsibility for the ongoing global warming and its consequent change in the climate regime of the world is that of the industrialized countries including Japan. Therefore, he

indicated that it is a question of survival for Africa to unite with the rest of the developing world and pressure the industrialized countries to provide the finance, technology and capacity building that it needs to adapt to the changing climate and to contribute to climate mitigation globally.

The Prime Minister further pointed out that Africa has extensive forests that are already globally contributing to mitigation substantially. With improved management, they can contribute even more. He also mentioned that Africa is well endowed with renewable energy resources and it has already started harnessing these resources to run its industrialization process. Citing Ethiopia as an example, H.E. Mr. Meles informed the symposium that the country is working towards having a much more developed economy that will be carbon neutral by 2025.

The Prime Minister stated that Africa’s united voice has had a major impact in the negotiations in Copenhagen in December 2009 and

the request for pledges for both emission reduction and the provision of support to developing countries that he presented to the industrialized countries in Copenhagen has been heeded.

H.E. Mr. Meles informed the Symposium that a High Level Panel, Co-chaired by former Prime Minister Gordon Brown of the United Kingdom and him, has been established to work out the details of the financial architecture and its views will feed into the climate change negotiations in Cancun, Mexico later this year.

The Prime Minister said, Africa is continuing to negotiate with one voice facing the rest of the world and it is working united for a global biosphere saving action in Cancun and beyond.

H.E. Mr. Meles congratulated Japan for its constructive engagement in the climate change negotiations and for its unwavering support to the Copenhagen Accord. He also underscored the need for Japan to continue to play an important role in the climate change negotiations

and for full and timely implementation of the Accord.

His Imperial Highness the crown Prince of Japan attended the Symposium as the Guest of honor. His Imperial Highness spoke about his recent visit to Ghana and Kenya and on issues of water and sanitation in Africa. The African Nobel Laureate Wangari Mathai also delivered a video message at the symposium. Other government dignitaries who delivered keynote speeches at the symposium include the Japanese Parliamentary Vice-Minister of foreign Affairs Ms. Chinami Nishimura and the senior vice President of JICA Ambassador Kenzo Oshima.

News compiled by Embassy

Agreement on the Nile River Basin Cooperative Framework opened for signature

The Nile Basin States have today 14th of May 2010 opened the Agreement on the Nile River Basin Cooperative Framework for signature for a period of one year until 13th May 2011. The event took place at Lake Victoria Hotel -

Entebbe, under the auspices of the Government of Uganda



H.E. Minister Asfaw signing the Cooperation Framework Agreement

H.E. Asfaw Dingamo, Minister of Water Resources of Ethiopia; Hon. Ambassador Stanislas Kamanzi, Minister of Lands and Water Management of Rwanda; Hon. Prof. Mark James Mwandosya, Minister of Water and Irrigation of Tanzania; and Hon. Isaac Isanga Musumba, Minister of Foreign Affairs (Regional Cooperation) of Uganda who signed the Agreement immediately after the opening, all described the ceremony as a land mark event.

Today marks a land mark event, the realization of a goal toward which we all have been working for over a decade now. It marks the long

distance we have cooperatively traversed to reach a level of trust and confidence that has enabled us to achieve a historic Framework Agreement that is fair, benefits all of us, harms none of us and leaves none of us out,” said H.E. Asfaw Dingamo in his statement.

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Uganda’s Minister Hon. Isaac Musumba said that “considering that all the principles and articles of the draft Cooperative Framework were discussed by the countries and consensus reached on all except for one clause under Article 14b on Water Security it is appropriate that this document is opened for signature to pave way for establishment of the Nile River Basin Commission.”

Prof. Mark Mwandosya described the Agreement as “not exclusive of any member state. It is indeed inclusive”. He added that the socio-economic well being of the people of the basin can be achieved through cooperation, hence the importance of the Cooperative Framework Agreement. Rwanda’s Minister, Ambassador Kamanzi also said that “signing will boost development for our population”.

Kenya was represented by its High Commissioner to Uganda, H.E. Maj. General Geoffrey L. Okanga who reaffirmed Kenya’s solidarity in the

signing of the Agreement. He said the Kenyan Minister for Water and Irrigation, Hon. Charity Kaluki Ngilu has not been able to attend but has “signaled her readiness to sign this agreement as soon as possible because Kenya’s position on this matter has not changed and remains the same,” said H.E. Maj. General Okanga.

The Ambassador of the Democratic Republic of Congo was represented by the 1st Secretary, Mr. Jeff Mambole. The Cooperative Framework Agreement will formalize the transformation of the Nile Basin Initiative into a permanent Nile River Basin Commission and facilitate its legal recognition in the member countries as well as regional and international organizations. The ceremony was also witnessed by the media, CFA negotiators, Nile Basin discourse and members of the Nile Technical Advisory Committee as well as staff of the Nile Basin Initiative¹.

Source: NBI

¹ *The Water and Irrigation Minister of Kenya signed the Agreement on 19th May 2010. Democratic Republic of Congo and Burundi are also expected to sign the agreement soon.*

Ambassador highlighted nation's development Achievements in his national day message

In a message he wrote to the Japan Times on the occasion of the celebration of May the 28th, Ambassador Abdirashid noted that the day was celebrated after Ethiopia conducted its fourth national and regional elections in a peaceful, free fair and credible manner.

He also stated that the victory of the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party (EPRDF) is a clear acknowledgement by the voters of the monumental development achievements registered under the wise leadership of the EPRDF.

The Ambassador noted the excellent bilateral relations between Ethiopia and Japan and he took the opportunity to thank the Japanese government for supporting Ethiopia's development endeavor. He particularly mentioned the ongoing policy dialogue on the East Asian development Experience and the Industrial Quality improvement

project being supported by JICA which are expected to enrich Ethiopia's future development plans and enhance the quality and productivity of its manufacturing sector.

In the multilateral realm, Ambassador Abdirashid alluded to Japan's increased role and its commitment to Africa's development effort. In this regard, he referred to the TICAD Ministerial Follow-up Meeting held recently in Arusha which commended Japan for honoring its commitments made at TICAD IV.

Ambassador Abdirashid also highlighted the strong leadership role being played by Prime Minister Meles Zenawi in the ongoing climate negotiations in his capacity as Chairman of the Conference of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC) and Co-Chair of the High-Level Advisory Group on Climate Change Financing.

In this connection, he indicated that Ethiopia has started to benefit from the support package announced by

Japan under the Hatoyama Initiative, which allocates \$15 billion to help developing countries mitigate the impact of climate change, especially in the areas of forest conservation.

On his part, Dr. Sadao Umeda, President of the Ethiopian Association of Japan congratulated the people and government of Ethiopia on the occasion of the 19th National Day celebration. While expressing his pleasure with the firm bilateral bonds between Ethiopia and Japan, he underscored the commitment of the Ethiopian Association of Japan in promoting its mission of fostering mutual friendship and goodwill between the peoples of the two sisterly countries.

Hon. Dr. Shozaburo Jimi, Former Chairman of the Japan-Ethiopia Parliamentary Friendship League and member of the Upper House of the Diet (currently the Minister of Financial Services and Postal Reform) also extended his congratulation to the people and government of Ethiopia on the 19th anniversary of the Ethiopian National Day. He expressed his

admiration for the remarkable economic growth which has been registered by Ethiopia over the last six consecutive years. As former chairman of the parliamentary friendship league and secretary general of the Peoples New Party he vowed to do his best to strengthen the friendship and exchange between Japan and Ethiopia.

Ethiopia and Japan sign Grant Agreement



H.E. State Minister Ahmed and H.E. Amb Komano signing the Agreement

On May 14 2010, the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the Japanese Government sign a grant agreement for 13.8 million USD (approximately 184.7 million birr) at the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development

(MoFED). As stated in the Agreement, the Grant will be used to finance the implementation of water supply project in Tigray region, which has a component of construction and rehabilitation of water supply facilities in 10 Woredas.

This agreement is the fifth grant agreement in this year (2010 G.C). It's to be recalled that the two countries had signed four agreements in January and March. The signed agreements were to finance the purchases of Services for detailed design to implement Rural Water Supply project in Tigray Region, to provide support for the implementation of the forest preservation program, food aid and the food security project for underprivileged farmers through out the country.

H.E. Ato Ahmed Shide, State Minister of Finance and Economic Development and H.E. Mr. Kinichi Komano, Ambassador of Japan to Ethiopia signed the agreement on behalf of the two governments.

Source: MOFED

Japan provides equipment worth 445,555 USD to National Museum of Ethiopia

Addis Ababa, March 25, 2010

Japanese ambassador to Ethiopia, Kinichi Komano here on Thursday handed over equipment for hominid fossil related facilities in donation to the National Museum of Ethiopia.

The equipment, worth 445,555 USD, include, among others, 30 sets of iron safe cabinets for hominid fossil, 100 sets of comparative specimen cabinets, four sets of microscope with illuminator, one set of microscope with digital camera system, one set of digital microscope, and one set of projector with stand and screen.

Culture and Tourism Minister, Ambassador Mohamoud Dirir on the occasion said the grant, which is part of the Project for the Improvement of Equipment for Hominid Fossil Related Facilities of the National Museum of Ethiopia, significantly contributes in the ongoing efforts of the country to preserve heritages. The minister said it will also further strengthen

research works in heritage conservation sector.

Ambassador Komano on his part said the Japanese government will further continue support to ongoing efforts of the National Museum of Ethiopia to preserve heritages. He also expressed belief that the international community will contribute share to support Ethiopia's endeavors to preserve its heritages.

Objectives of the project include, among others, safely store the "world treasure" class human fossils of Ethiopia, Promote international scientific research that would lead to further discoveries of such human fossils and promote public interest and education concerning the fossils.

Source: ENA

UNESCO announces selection of 13 new Biosphere Reserves

The International Coordinating Council of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme has added 13 new sites and five extensions in 15 different countries to the World Network of Biosphere Reserves

(WNBR), which now numbers 564 sites in 109 countries.

The decision to include the new sites was taken during the 22nd session of the International Coordination Council, which took place from 31 May to 4 June at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris.

Reserves were inscribed in Ethiopia and Zimbabwe for the first time this year. Sweden and the United Kingdom for their part decided to withdraw two sites from the World Network of Biosphere Reserves - Lake Torne and Taynish respectively - because they do not meet the criteria set out in the Seville Strategy of 1995. Biosphere Reserves are areas designated under UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme to serve as places to test different approaches to integrated management of terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine resources and biodiversity. Biosphere Reserves are thus sites for experimenting with and learning about sustainable development.

Brief descriptions of Kafa and Yayu

1. Kafa, Ethiopia, stretches over more than 700,000 ha containing

more than 50% of Ethiopia's remaining Afromontane evergreen forests ecosystems. It is the place of origin of the rare and critically endangered Coffee Arabica. The site, a scientific, economic, aesthetic and cultural treasure house, is characterized by numerous fertile valleys and lowlands linking the mountains and ridges, and a number of majestic waterfalls, including the Barta and Woshi falls. Public-private partnerships for economic growth and efficient use of resources have been implemented successfully in the area and can serve as models for new initiatives, particularly for sustainable coffee production and marketing.



Wild Coffee in Kafa, Ethiopia

2. Yayu, Ethiopia, in the southwestern Illubabor Zone of the

Oromiya Regional State, is part of the Eastern Afromontane Biodiversity Hotspot, one of the world's 34 vital yet threatened areas for biodiversity conservation. The area comprises undisturbed natural forests and semi-forest systems managed for the production of coffee, spices, honey and wood while providing important ecosystem services such as watershed protection in the Nile Basin. The Yayu forest has the greatest abundance of wild Arabica coffee anywhere. Sustainable development activities in the site focus on coffee production, including the planting of fruit trees both for crop and to provide shade for the coffee.



Coffee Nursery in Yayu, Ethiopia

Source: UNESCO

A Japanese Success Story Applied to Africa

May 26, 2010

It is a process which helped Japan rebuild from the ruins of World War II and create the world's second biggest economy. Now that same concept, known as 'kaizen', is helping developing countries improve their own economies. Ethiopia, one of the world's poorest nations, has embraced the idea and recently a group of ministry officials and business leaders visited Japan to learn first hand how to apply the 'kaizen' principles in practice.



Ethiopian officials and businessmen attending a lecture on Kaizen

In Japanese 'kaizen' means 'continuous improvement' or

'change for the better' and refers to a philosophy or practice that focus on eliminating waste by emphasizing continuous improvement of processes in manufacturing, management and supporting business practices. It typically involves all employees of a company from the chief executive officer to assembly line workers.

It was first applied in Japanese businesses at the end of the war and was influenced in part by American business and quality control methods. The concept has since spread around the world. In Africa, JICA has already successfully introduced 'kaizen' programs in Tunisia and Egypt.

With a population of nearly 80 million people, Ethiopia is one of the oldest, but also poorest countries in the world. In the last several years it has enjoyed robust economic growth and in 2005 introduced a five-year plan to tackle poverty and strengthen economic growth.

Impressed by results in Tunisia, the government established a 'kaizen' unit in the Ministry of Trade and Industry in 2009 and 30 companies

in such industries as metals, chemicals, textiles, leather and agro-processing were selected to participate in a pilot project which runs through end of 2010.

During their recent two-week Japanese visit the Ethiopian business leaders and officials toured similar facilities throughout the country and will now assess how best to apply the activities they saw to their own companies. In addition to introducing the 'kaizen' concept JICA is involved in a series of other measures to help improve Africa's overall industrial development.

It has encouraged wider private investment by Japanese companies - one high level delegation recently visited Mozambique - and also three-way liaisons involving JICA, Asian and African organizations. Malaysian experts, for instance, are helping Zambia strengthen its fragile industrial base. And a recent study by the JICA Research Institute and the World Bank concluded that much more emphasis must be placed on improving the performances of small

and medium sized African enterprises - specifically the kind of Ethiopian companies participating in the current 'kaizen' program.

Source: JICA

South Korea Medical Team Gives Medical Treatment to Over 2560 Patients

Addis Ababa, June 17, 2010

The South Korean Sun Han Volunteer Association gave medical treatment to 2,561 patients in Ras Desta Hospital here in the capital for free, the Metropolitan City Administration said.

Communication Affairs Bureau told ENA on Thursday that the medical team from the Association gave the treatment in a period of three days starting from last Monday. The medical treatment was given to patients of nine diseases.

The service provided by the Association would help strengthen the friendly relations between Ethiopia and South Korea, says Hospital General Manager, Solomon Tesfaye. The Association has also

given anti-TB drugs worth two million Birr to the hospital.

Source: ENA

African Fiesta held in Yokohama



Ethiopian Handicrafts and other artifacts displayed in the Embassy booth

African Fiesta which is one of the biggest annual African cultural events in Japan organized by the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs was held in Yokohama from 12-13 June 2010. What made the event special this year is that it was held at a time when the FIFA World Cup is being held on the African soil for the first time.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, African Embassies resident in Japan, Intergovernmental and Non-Governmental Organizations working on African issues and others participated in the event.

The Ethiopian Embassy showcased different handicrafts and other artifacts which promote Ethiopian culture and tourist attractions. It also displayed the traditional Ethiopia coffee ceremony which attracted many visitors.



Mocha Ethiopian Dance Group performing on the stage

Furthermore, the Mocha Ethiopian Dance Group staged a performance introducing the cultural dances of different nations, nationalities and

peoples of Ethiopia. In the fashion show arranged by the organizers to promote African culture, a group of Ethiopians and Japanese showcased the cultural costumes of different Ethiopian nations, nationalities and peoples. Ethiopian Restaurants also participated in this annual event selling Ethiopian cuisine to visitors.



Fashion show displaying the cultural costumes of different Ethiopian Nations and Nationalities



Mocha Ethiopian Dance Group

The event offered a good opportunity to promote the image of Ethiopia by introducing Ethiopian culture to the Japanese people.

News compiled by Embassy

NATIONAL NEWS

Nation will generate up to 10,000 MW in coming 5years: Meles

Addis Ababa, May 14, 2010

Prime Minister Meles Zenawi said nation will generate 8,000 to 10,000 MW of power from renewable energy sources in the coming five years. The premier said government eyes at exporting power to neighboring countries beyond satisfying the ever growing local demand. The Mega Beles Multi-purpose Hydro-electric Power Project constructed at cost of more than 7.1 billion birr was officially inaugurated on May 14th, 2010.

On the occasion, Meles said government covered the full cost of the project launched in July 2005. He said the project came in to existence after 100 years overcoming the geo-political complexity of the project.

Drawing lessons from Gilgel Gibe II, the tunnel work of Beles project carried out with much care, the premier said. PM Meles said government constructed three hydro

electric power projects which generate 1200 MW of power as it depicts government firm commitment.

He said government is to launch the construction of Chemo Gayda power generation project along with the ongoing Amertinesh and Gibe II projects as part of the effort to address the ever increased power demand.

The project, which has a capacity to generate 460 Mega Watt and develop 140, 000 hectares of land, is the largest of the power plants so far constructed in the country. It will also raise existing electric power supply by 23 per cent.

Mine and energy Minister Alemayehu Tegenu on his part said the transparent and effective policies and strategies are proven to be instrumental in ensuring sustainable economic growth registered over the last seven years in a row.

The minister said the energy policy of the country has enabled private actors to engage in the sector. Chief

Executive Officer of the Ethiopian Electric Power Corporation, Mihret Debebe on his part said EEPCo is implementing a 25 year Master Plan to address the increasing power demand in the country. He said the activities being carried out within the framework of the plan are paying off. Mihret said wide range of EEPCo activities over the past ten years have created jobs for thousands of people.

The Beles Mega project is environmentally friendly, feasible and apply state-of-the-art technologies and offer opportunities for technology transfer is a part of the plan, he said. The project will ease power shortage in the country.

It was noted more than 4,000 workers have participated in the construction of the project. Some 3,800 are Ethiopians while the rest are foreigners from 37 countries. Through there was an intention to construct power projects at Beles since the time of Emperor Menelik the II the previous regimes were unable to realize the project, he noted.

Amhara State Chief Ayalew Gobeze on his part said the project will

significantly contribute to advance the agricultural led economic policy of the country. Salini Construtorii General Manager Marco Balconi on his part said his company has constructed various social facilities for the local people.

He said the company would extend its support for the Ethiopian government's effort to fulfill the energy demand of the people. It was noted that the Mega Beles Multi-purpose Hydro-electric Power Project will go fully operational in the coming two months.

The Mega Beles Multi-purpose Hydro-electric Power Project inaugurated Friday with the presence of ministers, senior federal and regional officials, diplomatic corps, representatives of 35 foreign companies and invited guests.

Effort to make 4th national election peaceful, democratic, credible successful: Premier

Addis Ababa, May 25, 2010 - Prime Minister Meles Zenawi said the effort to make the fourth national election peaceful, democratic and credible on the part of the electorate has been successful. Close to 1.5 million

residents of Addis Ababa City have protested in a demonstration they held against the Human Rights Watch's interference on the free will and decision of the Ethiopian people. The rally was held at Meskel Square in the capital under the motto "Our Vote should be Honored".

Addressing the crowd Meles confirmed that the people of Ethiopia voted at polling stations across the nation in a peaceful manner. The premier expressed gratitude for women for casting votes for EPRDF. Meles said youth have benefited from the ongoing development endeavors and many others are following EPRDF's path. He thanked the youth for their will to grant votes for EPRDF. Meles has also expressed gratitude for the business community, investors, farmers and all segments of the societies who grant their votes for EPRDF hoping the party would take correctional measures.

He said his party accepted with grace the result of the 2005 elections, when the city residents did not vote for EPRDF. Now the party has won the will of the residents of Addis Ababa in this election by taking measures to correct its mistakes.

The premier also said the ruling party will try to address complaints of citizens who voted for the opposition parties.

Meles said residents of the metropolis have realized the remarkable achievements registered by EPRDF and gave their vote for the party. PM Meles said the coordinated efforts of the public and EPRDF as well as the result of the election conveyed clear message for the opposition parties. He said the people of Ethiopia are aware of the disruptive acts of some forces to tarnish the peaceful election process since in the out set.

The premier said EPRDF will honor the public vote and called on all parties to respect as well. Meles confirmed that EPRDF will revise its overall plan as it will shoulder the responsibility of the public. The premier promised that EPRDF will enable opposition parties to participate in pressing national issues whether they have seats in the parliament or not.

PM Meles also said no matter the number of seats they have in the parliament EPRDF will respect their right to be heard. The demonstrators

held slogans that read as “Honor our votes”, “We don’t sell our vote” and “we elect our leader and accept our will” among others.

Source: ENA

Political parties say they accept election results, congratulate EPRDF

Addis Ababa, May 31, 2010 - Some 14 political parties said they accept the election results and respect votes of the public. The parties also conveyed congratulatory message to the EPRDF. EDP on its part wished winner of the 4th national elections a successful five-year term.

According to a joint statement the 14 political parties made at Sheraton Addis in the capital, they will respect public vote as the national elections was held in a peaceful and democratic manner. CUD, ONC, AEDP, AENM, EVP and EDUM, among others, are some of the parties, which made the statement. The parties said in their six-point resolution that though there were some problems in some areas during the 4th national elections, they will respect public vote as the problems

would not bring about basic change on the election result.

The parties urged other political parties to respect votes of the public and contribute share in the efforts to maintain peace and build democracy in the country. They also condemned violence as it hinders the democratization process and development of the country. They said they accept the peaceful process of the election and active participation of the public in the elections, which observers of the African Union, the Coalition of Civic Associations and the European Union have witnessed.

The parties also denounced interference of foreign forces in relation to the national elections. The parties conveyed message of congratulation to the ruling party, which won the elections with majority vote.

Prime Minister Meles Zenawi's statement expressing the ruling party's willingness to work in collaboration with opposition parties on national affairs contributes to further strengthen multi-party system in the country, they said.

In a statement they made at Ghion Hotel, EDP leaders on their parts indicated that opposition parties were defeated because of their basic organizational weaknesses. They said the parties should put in place strategies to identify their weaknesses and take corrective measures. The leaders on the occasion presented problems they said occurred during the election process.

Source: ENA

May 28 celebrated colorfully across nation

Addis Ababa, May 28, 2010 (Addis Ababa) - The 19th anniversary of the May 28 Victory Day, a day that heralded the final demise of the dictatorial Dergue regime in 1991, celebrated across the nation on Friday.

Here in the capital Addis Ababa, at a program organized at the Millennium Hall by Addis Ababa City government, the Day celebrated with presence of dignitaries including President Girma Woldegiorgis, PM Meles Zenawi and Deputy PM Addisu Legesse.

Addressing the huge gathering PM Meles Zenawi expressed that the government will redouble its efforts to address the pressing issues of the residents of city. PM Meles said May 28 is a fruit of the lives of gallant compatriots like “Amoraw”, who nicknamed at the battle field, sacrificed himself and his compatriot spouse for the noble cause.

The premiere said the martyrs sacrificed their valuable lives to topple down the Dergue regime and their cause of struggle will be repeated on poverty by the current generation. They sacrificed their lives to bring democracy for fellow Ethiopians, he said, adding the current generation is fighting the real enemy - poverty. He urged the public to change the image of the country. Meles urged the youth to work together with EPRDF to pull out the nation from food aid dependency.

Addis Ababa City Mayor Kuma Demeksa on his part said the celebration of May 28 is so special as it is being celebrated on the morrow of the successful completion of a peaceful and democratic national election. He lauds the efforts of the

residents who contribute share to make the election peaceful.

The mayor called upon city residents to work together with EPRDF to make the capital modern and beautiful as its name Addis Ababa means New Flower. He said the city government will do its level best to ensure equitable share of resources among citizens and to further strengthen small and micro enterprise development. Kuma has also made call for opposition parties and their supporters to work with EPRDF for the realization of development endeavors despite their differences.

Colorful cultural and modern music of nations, nationalities and peoples of Ethiopia and children's chorus decorated by tri-color nation's flag staged at the Millennium Hall before a huge gathering. The Day is being celebrated in the city with various assortments including photographic exhibition.

Source: ENA

Ethiopia's GDP Growth Stands At 11.18 Per Cent in 4 Years: Sufian

Addis Ababa, June 4, 2010 - Finance and Economic Development Minister, Sufian Ahmed said Ethiopia's GDP has shown a growth rate of 11.18 per cent on average over the last four years. In 5-year performance report he presented to the federal parliament, Sufian said the agriculture sector of the economy has been growing by an average of 8.5 per cent during the reported period. Sufian said the industrial sector has grown by 9.9 per cent per annum on average, which he said, has a meaningful contribution for the economic growth of the country.

Both the agriculture and industrial sectors have a significant contribution for the economic growth the country has attained in the last four years. The contribution of the service sector to the economic development of the country is greater than that of the agriculture and industrial sectors combined. It accounts for 14.65 per cent.

Sufian said the investment sector's growth stands at 31.5 per cent while its contribution to the GDP

amounted to 24 per cent. He said the existence of suitable investment policy, speeding up of privatization process, and expansion of infrastructure development, among others, are the major factor for the increase in investment flow.

Concerning per capita, Sufian said per capita has increased to 217 US dollars now from only 164 US dollars five years ago showing an average growth rate of 7.2 per cent. Regarding price hike, Sufian said it is now stable.

Source: ENA

Deputy PM Calls Stakeholders to Contribute Share in Coffee Quality Improvement Efforts

Jimma, June 12, 2010 - Deputy Prime Minister, Addisu Legesse called up on stakeholders to contribute their share in efforts well underway to improve the quality of coffee. He made the call after a visit he and his entourage made at a coffee store and coffee test center existing in Jimma Town.

Addisu said the government has been striving to improve the quality of coffee, which is nation's major

source of export revenue, by introducing a number of guidelines and applying them into practice from kebele up to federal level. He said the government has also been committed to improve the quality of coffee starting from production to transaction level. Contraband trade has been a major a stumbling block for the improvement of coffee quality, he said.

He stressed the need for holding a discussion among growers, suppliers and exporters to help identify and solve problems related to coffee quality. Addisu was accompanied during his visit by Oromia State Administration Chief, Abadula Gemedo and Agriculture and Rural Development Minister, Tefera Deribew, among others.

Source: ENA

ECX starts issuing int'l certificate to exporters

19 June 2010- The Ethiopian Commodity Exchange (ECX) has started issuing international quality coffee certificate to exporters, it was learnt. The Exchange has signed a partnership agreement with the US-based Coffee Quality Institute (CQI)

to this end. The Exchange started issuing the certificate after cementing an agreement with CQX. The certificate is believed to fetch premium price for farmers as well as exporters. So far, six members of the Exchange have secured the certificate.



Ethiopian Commodity Exchange

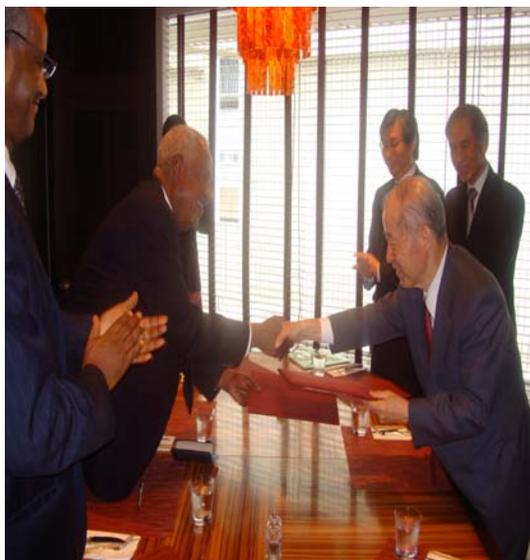
CQX has been working with the Exchange for the last one year and three months, according to Eleni Z. Gebremedhin, Chief Executive Officer of ECX. The Exchange had in the process developed its human resource and institutional capacity, thereby avoiding former procedures where Ethiopian coffee had to be sent abroad for certification, according to Eleni.

Source: Ethiopian Reporter

NEWS FEATURE

EIIPD AND JEF SIGNED COOPERATION AGREEMENT

The Executive Director of the Ethiopian International Institute for Peace and Development (EIIPD) Hon. Ato Sebhat Nega paid a working visit to Japan from 23-28 May 2010 upon the invitation of the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Japan Economic Foundation Mr. Noboru Hatakeyama.



Hon. Ato Sebhat and Mr. Hatakeyama shaking hands after signing the agreement



Hon. Ato Sebhat speaking at the Seminar in UNU

During his visit Hon. Ato Sebhat met and held discussions with Mr. Hatakeyama on possible areas of cooperation between the two research institutions and signed a Memorandum of Understanding which enables the two institutions to work together in joint research projects and training programmes.

Hon. Ato Sebhat spoke on the topic of Democratic Institutionalization in Africa in a seminar organized by the United Nations University in Tokyo. In this regard, he underscored that the type of democracy which needs to be introduced and institutionalized in Africa should understand and appreciate the existing problem in the society. It is on the basis of this that the national vision and programs of the country could be formulated and implemented.



Hon. Ato Sebhat speaking at the Roundtable Discussion at JEF

Hon. Ato Sebhat also talked about the synergy between, peace, democracy and development underscoring the importance of ensuring democracy to foster peace and development. He responded to

questions from students and faculty members who attended the seminar.



Hon. Ato Sebhat meeting with Honorable Tetsuro Yano and Yasuhiro Oe of the Japanese Diet

Moreover, Hon Ato Sebhat spoke on the theme of Peace, Democracy and Development in Ethiopia in a roundtable discussion organized by the Japan Economic Foundation.



Hon. Ato Sebhat meeting with Chairman Yasuo Hayashi of JETRO

Japanese intellectuals, government officials and representatives of the business community attended the roundtable discussion. He cited the question of nations and nationalities as a major contradiction in the Ethiopian society which led to the emergence of many armed groups fighting for independence.



Hon. Ato Sebhat meeting with Hon. Tenzo Okumura, Chair of the Administration Committee of the ruling DPJ and Vice-chair of the DPJ's Japan-AU Parliamentary Friendship League

In this regard, he said that the democratic nationalism or otherwise known as revolutionary democracy which is being institutionalized in Ethiopia accepts diversity and

strives to build unity based on equality of nations and nationalities.



Hon. Ato Sebhat meeting with Hon. Dr. Shozaburo Jimi (Dr. Jimi has recently been appointed as the Minister for Financial Services and Postal Reform under the new Kan Administration)

Hon. Ato Sebhat also alluded to the East Asian development experience and said that the democratic developmental state that Ethiopia is trying to build draws inspiration from the Japanese experience. He also underscored the importance of understanding the political developments in Ethiopia in this perspective. He also said that the system that is being built in Ethiopia can be replicated in other African countries and in this regard Ethiopia can serve as a gateway to instill the

East Asian development model in other parts of the continent.



Hon. Ato Sebhat Meeting with Vice President Eiji Hashimoto of JICA

In his brief stay in Japan, Hon. Ato Sebhat met members of the Diet and Senior Officials of JICA, JETRO, Japanese think tanks and the Ethiopian Association of Japan and held discussions on strengthening the multifaceted relations between Ethiopia and Japan. He particularly

exchanged views with Japanese think tanks on the possibility of cooperation in joint research projects.



Hon. Ato Sebhat Meeting with Ambassador Kenjiro Izumi, vice President of the Ethiopian Association of Japan and other members of the leadership

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