



QUARTERLY ONLINE BULLETIN

3-4-1, Takanawa, Minato-ku,
Takanawa Kaisei Bldg. 2F
Tokyo 108-0074
E-mail: info@ethiopia-em.b.or.jp
<http://www.ethiopia-emb.or.jp>

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NATIONAL NEWS

House Re-elects Meles Zenawi as Prime Minister



Prime Minister Meles zenawi taking Oath

October 4, 2010 (Addis Ababa) - The House of the Peoples' Representatives in its 4th tenure first regular session held on Monday re-elected Meles Zenawi as Prime Minister of Ethiopia for the next five years.

The House said PM Meles has enabled nation to register double digit economic growth over the past years. It also said

with Prime Minister Meles zenawi's meticulous leadership, Ethiopia is taking elevated position in international forums.

The House believes that PM Meles is a capable leader to ensure the renaissance of Ethiopia and to implement the five-year Growth and Transformation Plan successfully. Taking of his premiership PM Meles expressed his commitment to serve the nation with integrity and dedication as well as based on the law of the land.

Source: ENA

PM Meles Assigns Cabinet Members

October 5, 2010 (Addis Ababa) - The House of Peoples' Representatives (HPR) has approved members of Cabinet presented by PM Meles Zenawi with unanimous vote. PM Meles said it is deemed necessary to reshuffle and newly establish ministries for the success of the Growth and Transformation Plan.

While presenting profiles of his cabinet members PM Meles said they are nominated because of their capability and political commitment.

The newly assigned cabinet members swore-in before the House. Accordingly,

1. **Hailemariam Dessalegn** is appointed as Deputy PM and Foreign Affairs Minister,
2. **Siraj Fegessa** as Defense Minister,
3. **Dr. Shiferaw Teklemariam** as Federal Affairs Minister,
4. **Birhan Hailu** as Justice Minister ,
5. **Juniedi Saddo** as Civil Service Minister ,
6. **Sufian Ahmed** as Finance and Economic Development Minister ,
7. **Tefera Deribew** as Agriculture Minister,
8. **Mekonnen Manyazawal** as Industry Minister,
9. **Abdurahman Shiek Ahmed** as Trade Minister,
10. **Dessi Dalike** as Science and Technology Minister,
11. **Dirba Kuma** appointed as Transport Minister,
12. **Debretsion Gebremicheal** as Communication and Information Technology Minister,
13. **Mekuria Haile** as Urban Development and Construction,

14. **Alemayehu Tegenu** Water and Energy Minister,
15. **Sinknesh Ejigu** as Mine Minister,
16. **Demeke Mekonen** as Education Minister.
17. **Dr. Tedros Adhanom** as Health Minister ,
18. **Amin Abdulkadir** as Culture and Tourism Minister,
19. **Abdulfetah Abdualahi** as Labor and Social Affairs Minister and
20. **Zenebu Tadesse** as Women and Child and Youth Minister.

Besides, the house also endorsed the cabinet membership of **Bereket Simon** as Head of Government Communication Affairs Office, **Aster Mamo** as Government Whip in the Federal Parliament and **Melaku Fenta** as Revenue and Custom Authority Director General with a rank of ministers.

Source: ENA

Ethiopia's macroeconomic outlook favorable in 2010-11: IMF

November 26, 2010

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) said that Ethiopia's macroeconomic outlook is "broadly favorable" for 2010-11. The Fund said that real GDP growth will continue to rise, reflecting an

anticipated bumper harvest and ongoing strong goods and services exports, particularly of gold.

IMF further indicated that inflation may temporarily rise as a result of devaluation in September, but is expected to taper off to the single-digits. According to the Fund, Ethiopia has successfully implemented policies to reduce inflation and rebuild external reserves under the Exogenous Shocks Facility (ESF) -supported program.

IMF added that based on a much stronger performance in 2009/10 than anticipated, the medium-term export outlook has been raised on higher gold and service exports. The country is determined to focus on sustaining macroeconomic stability, enhancing domestic resource mobilization, promoting broad-based and pro-poor growth, and increasing investment in infrastructure, primary sectors and core MDG clusters, it noted.

A new 5-year development plan—the Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP)—is being finalized. It includes ambitious real growth objectives of at least 11 percent, with an aim of placing Ethiopia in the ranks of middle-income countries by 2025.

In line with the GTP objectives, the country is determined to ensure that the economy continues to sustain its growth trajectory and achieve the development goals, including poverty reduction and the MDGs. Ethiopia's macroeconomic fundamentals and continued commitment to strong policies helped the country sustain the growth momentum of the last five years even in the face of the global economic downturn, IMF indicated.

Source: MoFA

Ethiopian takes delivery of the first Boeing 777-200LR

November 21, 2010 (Addis Ababa) -

Ethiopian Airlines took delivery of the first of the five 777-200LR that the airline ordered in 2009 from Boeing Company, the airline said. The 777-200LR is the world's largest twin engine and long-range airliner with a capacity of connecting any two cities nonstop.

Ethiopian Airlines Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Girma Wake said 777-200LR is entirely computer designed and commercial air craft. With the arrival of 777-200LR, he said, Ethiopian is the first airline in Africa to acquire and

operate the world's most technologically advanced airplane with the longest-range. He said the addition of the new airplane will reaffirm Ethiopian's position as the leader in the aviation industry of Africa.



With its pay load of more than 300 passengers, he said, the 777-200LR ultra modern 21st century aircraft will fly from Washington to Addis Ababa nonstop. General Manager of the 777 program, Larry Loftis, said on his part that the 777-200LR is the only airplane that provides the range and efficiency that Ethiopian needs to service its long-haul routes.

The 777-200LR is said to carry more passengers and cargo more than any other jet liner. The multi-faceted features of the 777-200LR will further help the Ethiopian expand its network and is a perfect complement to the 787s that are on order. Ethiopian is one of the fastest

growing airlines in the industry. In order to meet the required level of the fleet size, Ethiopian 38 new airplanes on order direct from the manufacturers, including the recent covering five 77-200LRs and twelve A350-900 Ethiopian has also on order ten 787 eight Bombardier aircraft.

Source: ENA

DIPLOMATIC NEWS

[Africa's Voice Heard in G20 Summit: Meles](#)



[Group picture of Leaders during the G-20 Summit](#)

Prime Minister Meles Zenawi said the understanding reached among G20 countries embraces both the position of Ethiopia and Africa. The G20 summit

had deliberated extensively on global economic crisis and climate change, among others.

He said Africa did not participate in G20 Summit that was held in Washington DC following the global economic crisis. But Africa has presented its own alternatives in London and Pittsburg G20 summits. The economic crisis caused due to the gap between saving and budget was top on the agenda at summit.

Meles who participated at the summit, said the G20 Summit had accepted the position of Africa. Africa's voice is heard in the summit, Meles said adding that a team in charge of expanding development and investment in African countries will be established. The team will consist of 12 members, the Prime Minister said.

Source: ENA

Meles: Africa Suffers Most from Lack of Progress in Climate Change Negotiation

15 November 2010 (Addis Ababa) - Prime Minister Meles Zenawi said Africa suffers most from lack of progress from climate change negotiation. Meles made the remark at the meeting of the Committee of African Heads of State

and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC) which discusses ways of sharpening African common position on climate change for the 16th conference to be held in Cancun, Mexico in November 2010.

Meles, who is also the Coordinator of CAHOSCC, said Africa has every reason to fight for the successful outcome in the Cancun Climate Conference. Meles said the common position will allow African countries to speak with one voice and maximize their impact in pursuit of fair deal on climate change.

He said the meeting will also come up with thorough analysis of the state of play and possibilities of making progress in the Cancun conference. "In addition we have to streamline our negotiations structure with a view to overcoming the tendency of some of the delegations of our countries to ignore the common African position and strike a discordant note," Meles added. He said the outcome of this meeting would let African countries guided by the common positions and support the work of their common negotiation terms to ensure African interest.

African Union Commission Chairperson, Jean Ping on his part said AU appreciates the role of CAHOSCC in

continually strategizing for it to effectively champion Africa's legitimate climate change concerns and interests at Conference of Parties and other relevant fora. He commends the efforts of Prime Minister Meles whom he said has spared no effort in championing the interest of Africa on climate change issues at various fora.

Ping said this meeting is held under the decision taken by the AU Summit held in Uganda, Kampala last June. He said the summit has endorsed the recommendations of CAHOSCC to streamline single negotiation structure at the ministerial and experts levels with a view to ensuring effective coordination of the negotiations on climate change towards the 16th and 17th conference of the Parties to be held in Mexico and in South Africa in 2010 and 2011, respectively.

He said the 7th African Development Forum that was held in Addis Ababa has underscored that climate change could severely undermine progress towards sustainable development. Ping said the conference has underscored the fact that climate change provides an opportunity to pursue a sustainable development path given respective leadership and good governance at all levels, Ping said.

"Africa must continue to position itself and reaffirm its priorities to safeguard the livelihoods of its peoples and to attain the Millennium Development Goals", Ping added. He said it is important to re-emphasize the necessity for Africa to focus on its key sectors including energy water agriculture in the post 2012 new international funding architecture for climate change.

Ping said Africa can harness its renewable sources of energy including water wind and solar among others to achieve its green development goals. There is a huge opportunity for Africa to harness its water resources not only for developing its hydropower sector but also to boost agricultural productivity. CAHOSCC is composed of Heads of State and Government of Algeria, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria and Uganda.

Source: ENA

Ethiopian Prime Minister Hopes Seoul Shares Development Experience

By Song Sang-ho (11 November 2010)

Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi called on South Korea to share its

unique development experience with African countries to forge a “mutually beneficial partnership.”



Prime Minister Meles delivering his keynote address

“One of the biggest gifts that Korea can give Africa is to share its development experience,” said the prime minister during his lecture in Seoul on the economic development of Africa and cooperation between Asian and African nations.

“I don’t believe Korea developed because of external assistance or exceptional natural resources. I believe South Korea developed because they have a good policy and a good strategy of development.”

The fourth-term prime minister underscored that South Korea, which was once seen by some observers as more or less a “basket case” in the ashes of the war six decades ago, has now become an advanced country with cutting-edge technology, a dynamic economy and a stable democracy.

“What Korea can do is not only promote its own development experience but also protect and defend African countries’ right to select their own model. So, Africans can learn from the best experience everywhere, choose for themselves and develop,” he said.

Zenawi, who arrived in Seoul to attend the Group of 20 summit, spoke at the 25th Choong Cheong Forum. The CCF is a nonprofit research group, which was established in 2000 by influential figures from the central Chungcheong region.

The group members regularly gather to discuss current international and domestic issues and seek viable solutions and visions for the future. Zenawi, who currently serves as chairman of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development, particularly called on Seoul to help African nations establish better infrastructure, develop their natural resources and enhance their manufacturing sector.

“One of the critical roles that Korea can play in the development of Africa in general and Ethiopia in particular is the development of infrastructure -- roads, railways power stations, telecommunication networks, water supply systems. This requires a lot of engineering and construction capacity,” he said.

“South Korean companies have the experience of building this infrastructure from nothing. Korea had to start from scratch (after the war). So, these companies know how to work in a difficult and challenging environment. Korean engineering and construction companies have a huge role to play.” Noting that Korea represents a “rags to riches story with the most rapidly successful development experience of the 20th century,” he stressed that enhanced bilateral cooperation between Korea and African nations will be mutually beneficial.

“There is obvious complementarity between Asia in general and Korea in particular and Africa that can be the basis of a mutually beneficial partnership. Korea needs African markets, natural resources to continue its extraordinary growth,” he said. The prime minister also extended his gratitude to South Korea for its sponsorship of the development of

poorer countries at the G20 summit. “Thanks to South Korea, among others, the G20 has for the first time taken up the issues of growth and development in least developed countries. South Korea has taken a leading role in charting a new and progressive agenda for growth and development,” he said. “South Korea has put its money where its mouth is and is assisting many African states in a manner that is consistent with the framework that is expected to be endorsed by the G20 in its Seoul summit. We encourage Korea to stay the course in spite of obstacles that will inevitably emerge.”

CCF chairman Sung Woan-jong, who is CEO of Keangnam Enterprise, said that the forum would help boost cooperation in a variety of areas between the two countries whose relationship was “forged in blood during the 1950-53 war.” “Ethiopia is one of the countries that sent an infantry unit during the war to defend its democracy.

Although a long-standing friendly relationship, the bilateral economic cooperation has yet to reach a level that could satisfy both sides,” Sung said during the forum. “Through the forum, I hope we can bolster exchanges not only with Ethiopia, but also with other African states in a variety of areas, including

social, economic, political and cultural areas.”

Zenawi was invited to the two-day global economic forum, which opened in Seoul, as a NEPAD chairman. It was his second visit to Seoul after his first visit in 1998. Along with Ethiopia, the Korean government, the host of the summit, invited four other non-G20 members -- Malawi, Singapore, Spain and Vietnam - - to the Seoul gathering.

Some 600 people from various walks of life took part in the Choong Cheong forum. Among the participants are former Prime Minister Chung Un-chan, Rep. Ko Heung-kil, Grand National Party policy chief and Rep. Jun Byung-hun, Democratic Party policy chief. Choong Cheong Forum has some 10 regional branches under which some 3,500 members from business, cultural and political sectors, are registered. Its key members include U.N. Secretary-general Ban Ki-moon and Seoul National University president Oh Yeon-cheon.

Source: Korean Herald

IGAD vows for successful implementation of Sudanese CPA

November 23, 2010 (Addis Ababa)

The 16th Extra- Ordinary Session of IGAD Assembly of Heads of State and Government has concluded its deliberation on the progress on the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in the Sudan.

The Assembly received a report from Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and current Chairperson of the IGAD Council of Ministers Hailemariam Desalegn on the proceedings of the 38th Extraordinary Session of the IGAD Council.

The Assembly was attended by Ugandan President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, Sudan President Omar Hassan Ahmed El Bashir, Djiboutian President Ismael Omar Guelleh, Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki,

The Assembly was briefed on the implementation of the CPA by Sudan President Omar Hassan Ahmed El Bashir and the President of the Government of Southern Sudan Salva Kiir Mayardit.

After extensive deliberations on the progress of the implementation of the CPA in the Sudan and an update of the situation in Somalia the Assembly under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister Meles Zenawi has issued a 15 points communiqué.

In its communiqué, the Assembly acknowledged the smooth process of the referendum as a significant milestone in the implementation of the CPA between the Government of the Sudan and the SPLM, negotiated and agreed under the auspices of IGAD in January 2005.

The Assembly reiterated the commitment of IGAD member States not only to continue their support for the full implementation of the CPA but also to support the Sudan during the post referendum period for the sake of peace, stability and democracy.

It affirmed its full confidence in the leadership of President Omar Hassan El Bashir and Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit, Chairperson of SPLM, to lead the Sudan into a new era of peace, irrespective of whether the people of Southern Sudan choose unity or secession.

It also commended the efforts of the AUHIP led by the former South African President, Thabo Mbeki in facilitating the Parties' agreement on the implementation of outstanding issues in the CPA and Post-Referendum Arrangements.

The Assembly was particularly encouraged by the parties' commitment in achieving in the event of the

secession of Southern Sudan, two viable States, living as peaceful and cooperative neighbors that maintain common security as well as a "soft border" between the North and South that forges cooperation without disruption to the livelihoods of the people.

It welcomed the dedication of the Parties to resolve the outstanding issues in particular Abyei and called upon the parties to approach the next round of negotiations with a spirit of compromise cognizant of the need to guarantee the rights and livelihoods of the affected people.

It also welcomed the commitment of the Sudanese Parties to the timely and credible conduct of free and fair referendum and the respect for its outcome.

The Assembly underlined the progress made towards reaching a Framework Agreement but at the same time expressed concern over pending issues that continue to threaten the full implementation of the CPA. It mandated the Chairperson of IGAD Assembly to present IGAD's position to the African Union Peace and Security Council (AU PSC) at its forthcoming session due to be held in Tripoli, Libya.

The Assembly, after having listened the update and following exchange of views on the political, security and humanitarian situation in Somalia, expressed its serious concern the political developments in Somalia that continue to be characterized by internal wrangles and lack of cohesion among the leadership of the Transitional Federal Institutions (TFIs).

It called upon the presidency and the parliament not only to work together with greater cohesion but also to give political and ideological leadership ensures that there is total harmony among the leadership of the two institutions.

The Assembly urged the leadership of the TFIs to move expeditiously in the confirmation of the new cabinet, outlining the road map defining the key tasks to be implemented during the remaining transition period.

It affirmed the unswerving and continued support of IGAD Member States to the TFIs of Somalia in their endeavour to create peace, security and stability in the country, put in place the institutions of governance and deliver basic services to the people of Somalia.

The Assembly urged the TFIs, in close consultation with the Somali people, IGAD and the international community to

carefully examine and provide appropriate political options before the end of the Transitional period. It expressed its grave concern over the highly volatile security situation in Somalia, with armed opposition groups unleashing terrorist attacks on the people Somalia, the TFG and AMISOM.

The Assembly directed the Chiefs of Defense Staff of IGAD member States to review reports submitted by Military Experts on their recent mission to Somalia, assess the current situation on the ground and make further recommendation on actions required to help in the re-organization of the TFG security forces and assist AMISOM to fulfill its mandate.

The Assembly called upon the international community and friends of Somalia to help in the reorganization of the TFG forces. It expressed its regrets on the slow progress in the full implementation of the agreement between the TFG and Ahlu Sunna Wal Jama (ASWJ) and called upon the TFG and the leadership of ASWJ to take the necessary steps for the speedy and full implementation of their commitments under the Agreement. It expressed its deep concern that the United Nations Security Council has yet to respond to

the request formally made by the AU Peace and Security Council.

The Assembly reiterated its sincere appreciation and gratitude to Burundi and Uganda for their unflinching commitment to peace and reconciliation in Somalia and their invaluable contribution to AMISOM, and noted with satisfaction their readiness to provide additional troops for AMISOM to reach its newly authorized strength.

Source: ENA

Japan Will Further Strengthen Its Development Assistance to Ethiopia: Ambassador

October 16, 2010 (Addis Ababa) - Ambassador of Japan to Ethiopia said his country would further strengthen its support to Ethiopia in its efforts well underway to reduce poverty.

The Ambassador Hiroyuki Kishino told ENA that he would exert maximum efforts to further consolidate the 80 years of diplomatic relations existing between Ethiopia and Japan. He said the trade exchange volume between Ethiopia and Japan has shown a steady growth.

Particularly Ethiopia's export volume Japan has increased by 50 per cent this

year. It reached 368 million US dollars this year. The ambassador said the Japan supports Ethiopia toward its power development activity. He said Japan has finalized a feasibility study on geothermal development which will be financed by the Japanese government.

Source: ENA

EMBASSY NEWS

Ethiopia Participated in JATA 2010



Ethiopian booth during JATA 2010

A delegation composed of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the Ethiopian Embassy in Tokyo, Ethiopian tour operators and travel agents as well as the Ethiopian Airlines participated in JATA world Tourism Congress and Travel Fair which was held in Tokyo from 24-26 September 2010.

The Fair was instrumental in promoting Ethiopia as an attractive tourist destination in Africa by highlighting the country's natural, historical and cultural attractions. During the fair, the traditional Ethiopian coffee ceremony was displayed which attracted many visitors. Ethiopian tour operators and travel agents were also able to interact with their Japanese counterparts in order to introduce their tour packages to different tourist spots in Ethiopia and jointly arrange visits for Japanese tourists.



H.E. Ambassador Abdirashid posing for a picture with members of the Ethiopian delegation who attended JATA 2010

Furthermore, the Mocha Dance group had taken the stage during the fair showcasing Ethiopia's cultural diversity by performing the cultural dances of different Ethiopian nations and nationalities. JATA is one of the biggest

tourism and travel fairs in Asia attracting the participation of many countries from different parts of the world.



Mocha Dance Group performing on the stage during JATA 2010

Ethiopia shined during IFEX Flower Expo 2010

Ethiopia participated in the IFEX Flower Expo 2010 which was held in Mukahari Messe (Japan) from 28-30 October 2010. This is one of the biggest flower exhibitions in Asia attracting the participation of flower producers, exporters, importers and others engaged in the flower industry from around the world. The Ethiopia delegation was composed of the Ethiopian Horticultural Producers & Exporters Association, the Ethiopian Horticultural Development Agency and the Ethiopian Embassy.



Ethiopian booth during the IFEX flower Expo 2010

Ethiopia has been regularly participating in the IFEX flower expo since 2006. But compared to past years, Ethiopia's participation in the Expo this year was special both in terms of the size of the booth and its unique design as well as the variety and quantity of flowers displayed. This is a reflection of the growing importance of the Japanese market for Ethiopian cut flower. The volume of Ethiopian cut flower entering the Japanese market has been steadily picking up in the last couple of years.

Ms. Nobuko Oshima, Director of the Ethiopian Association of Japan who also imports Ethiopian flowers to Japan, greatly helped in decorating the Ethiopian booth. The traditional Ethiopian Coffee Ceremony, which was displayed by the Ethiopian Embassy

during the Expo, had also attracted many visitors to the Ethiopian booth.



Ethiopian Coffee Ceremony displayed during the Flower Expo

During the exhibition, the Ethiopian delegation was able to interact with Japanese cut flower importers and explored business opportunities. The Chairman of the Ethiopian Horticultural Producers and Exporters Association (EHPEA) Mr. Tsegaye Abebe also made a presentation about the Ethiopian horticultural industry during a seminar organized by the Japan flower trade Association on the sidelines of the IFEX Expo.

Ethiopia's participation to the IFEX Flower Expo 2010 was very successful in promoting the burgeoning Ethiopian flower industry in Japan. This is

expected to boost the import of Ethiopian cut flower to Japan.



The Ethiopian delegation interacting with visitors

Ethiopian Night 2010 Held colorfully in Tokyo

The Ethiopian Night of Music, Dance and cuisine was held colorfully in Tokyo on 30 October 2010 with a theme "Celebrating the Longstanding Ethio-Japanese Friendship and Exchange". This is an annual event jointly organized by the Ethiopian Embassy, the Ethiopian Association of Japan, MOCHA Dance Group, Association of Ex-JOCV of Ethiopia and other friends of Ethiopia. The aim of this event is to foster cultural exchange and further strengthen the people to people relations between Ethiopia and Japan.



H.E. Amb. Abdirashid Dulane delivering his welcoming remark

H.E. Ambassador Abdirashid Dulane, in his welcoming remark during the occasion, said that this year's Ethiopian Night is being celebrated at a time when Ethiopia is embarking on the monumental task of implementing its next five years growth and transformation plan. He therefore took the opportunity to call upon the Japanese government, the business community, civil societies and friends of Ethiopia as well as Ethiopian compatriots to support the realization of the plan.

Mr. Kumio Kusaka, Director General of African Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign

Affairs of Japan, who was the Guest of Honor and H.E. Ambassador Kenjiro Izumi, Former Ambassador of Japan to Ethiopia and Vice-President of the Ethiopian Association of Japan, also addressed the event.



Yokosai folk dance group performing on the stage

Yokosai, a traditional Japanese Folk Dance Group and MOCHA Ethiopian Dance Group performed on the stage during the event showcasing Japanese and Ethiopian Cultural dances, respectively.

Participants of the event had the opportunity to taste Ethiopian cuisine which was served during the occasion and enjoyed the traditional Ethiopian coffee ceremony.



Mocha Dance group performing on the stage

This year's event witnessed the participation of more than 300 people including dignitaries from the Japanese government, members of the Diplomatic Corps in Tokyo, members of the Japanese business community and civil societies, Japanese friends of Ethiopia and Ethiopians living in Japan.



Participants enjoying Ethiopian traditional music

Embassy participated in Global Feista 2010

The Ethiopian Embassy participated in Global Fiesta 2010 which was held in Hibiya Park, Tokyo from 2-3 October 2010. This is an annual event organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation.



The Ethiopian Booth during Global Feista

The aim of the event is to gain more public understanding and support for Japan's international cooperation activities undertaken through its Official Development Assistance (ODA). The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, JICA, Embassies resident in Tokyo, Intergovernmental organizations, non-

governmental organizations, volunteer's associations and others participated at the event.



Ethiopian Roses on sale during Global Feista

During the two day event, the Ethiopian Embassy displayed some of the development projects carried out in Ethiopia with the help of Japanese ODA. Ethiopian coffee was also served to people who visited the Ethiopian booth. Furthermore, Ethiopian roses were put on sale for visitors by Ms. Oshima, director of the Ethiopian Association of Japan, who also imports Ethiopian flowers to Japan.

“Little Ambassadors” paid visit to Embassy

About 50 Japanese children and their families visited the Ethiopian Embassy on the 5th of September 2010.



Children learning how to bake *injera*

The aim of their visit is to get to know Ethiopia and learn about its culture and people. The visit is organized by the International Women's Club Japan (IWCJ) whose objective is to expose Japanese children to different experiences and broaden their world view.



Children explaining what they studied about Ethiopia

During their visit, the children and their families were given a brief explanation about Ethiopia in general – its history, culture and tradition. The children also presented what they have studied about Ethiopia.



Children observing the demonstration of Ethiopian Coffee Ceremony



Group picture of the children with the Embassy Diplomats

Moreover, they have had the opportunity to participate in the cooking of traditional Ethiopian cuisine with the help of the Embassy's Chief. They were also able to witness the demonstration of Traditional Ethiopian Coffee Ceremony.

At the end of their visit, the children were handed "Little Ambassadors" Certificate so that they could share their experience to their friends in school and promote Ethiopia.

Embassy hosted members of the International Friendship Center in Tokyo



Group picture of H.E. Amb Abdirashid and Diplomats with members of the IFC

The Ethiopian Embassy hosted about 30 members of the International Friendship Center in Tokyo on the 15th of October

2010. The members visited the Embassy as part of the IFC's activity to promote friendship and exchange.



H.E. Amb. Abdirashid addressing members of the IFC

H.E. Ambassador Abdirashid Dulane welcomed members of the IFC and he gave a brief introduction of Ethiopia to them. He said Ethiopia has a lot to offer to Japanese tourists and he invited the members to visit the country.

The members also watched a short promotional DVD about Ethiopia which shows the country's different tourist attractions.



Members of Mocha Dance group performing on the Occasion

Moreover, the Members had the opportunity to taste different Ethiopian cuisines and enjoyed the Ethiopian coffee ceremony. Members of the Mocha Ethiopian Dance group also showcased the cultural dances of different Ethiopian nations and nationalities during the occasion.



Members of the IFC enjoying Ethiopian Coffee Ceremony

Participants were given a set of questions to test their knowledge about Ethiopia and those who won the quiz received award of different Ethiopian handicrafts from H.E. Amb. Abdirashid Dulane.



H.E. Amb. Abdirashid handing over awards to participants

Ethiopia's Next Five Years (2010/11-2014/15)

Growth and Transformation Plan: Brief

Introduction

The Ethiopian government has designed the right development policies and strategies to drive the country's socio-economic transformation. As a result, Ethiopia has been making enormous strides in terms of its socio-economic development.

The double digit GDP growth that the country has registered in the last seven consecutive years is indeed testimony to this fact. Ethiopia has also made significant inroads towards achieving the millennium development goals and it has been singled out as one of the countries in Africa likely to meet those goals.

The socio-economic progress achieved thus far is believed to have laid a solid foundation for the realization of Ethiopia's renaissance. Based on the achievements of the past years and the country's vision to join the ranks of middle income countries in the next decade or two, the Ethiopian government has prepared an ambitious Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP)

which will be implemented in the next five years.

The GTP aims at the minimum to sustain the 11% average annual GDP growth rate registered in the last seven years and at the maximum achieve 14% annual average GDP growth in the next five years. In this regard, the plan strives, among others, to double agricultural production and the country's gross domestic product in the next five years as well as achieve the MDGs.

Although the agricultural sector will still remain to be the main engine driving economic growth in Ethiopia, the industrial sector is envisaged to grow very fast in the next five years and eventually take a leading role in the economy by the end of the plan period. The Ethiopian government also aims to massively invest in infrastructure to drive fast economic growth and development. It is worthy to mention in this regard the plan to build more than 2000km railway lines across different parts of Ethiopia in the next five years.

Ethiopia plans to grow its economy in an environmental friendly fashion and it is exerting enormous efforts to build a green economy by 2025. In this respect, for instance, the government plans to significantly boost the country's electricity generating capacity by undertaking numerous energy projects by utilizing environmentally friendly energy sources such as hydro, geothermal and wind. In the next five years Ethiopia's electricity generating capacity is expected to be significantly scaled up from the current 2000mw to 10,000mw.

There is no doubt that the growth and transformation plan is ambitious but the country's track record in the last seven years gives the government enormous optimism and confidence that the objectives set in the plan will indeed be achievable. The plan has also created a lot of vigor and enthusiasm among the Ethiopian people and with the concerted efforts of the government, the private sector and the public at large, Ethiopia's renaissance will be no doubt realized.

Of course, the support of development partners is essential to fully implement the objective set in the growth and transformation plan. Therefore, the Embassy would like to request the

countries to which it is accredited to namely Japan, Republic of Korea, Indonesia and Philippines to extend their support to the realization of the growth and transformation plan through the provision of increased and sustained development assistance in line with the GTP and by sharing their successful development experience which are relevant to Ethiopia.

The Embassy also wishes to invite business communities in the respective countries to invest in Ethiopia and benefit from the vast investment opportunities available in the country. Last but not least, the Embassy calls upon Ethiopians living in Japan, Republic of Korea, Indonesia and the Philippines to contribute their part in any way possible to the realization of the Ethiopian renaissance.