



Ethiopian Embassy News

A Monthly Bulletin of the Ethiopian Embassy, Washington D.C.

Year: II Issue 10, April 2016



Amb. Girma Birru briefing Ethiopian Diaspora in Houston, Texas

Contents

<i>Ambassador Girma Birru Briefed the Ethiopian Diaspora</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>The Fifth Anniversary of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD).....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Ethiopia: Land of Origins</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Amb. Girma Birru met with Congressman Mike Coffman</i>	<i>5</i>

Ambassador Girma Birru Briefed the Ethiopian Diaspora

As part of his continued engagement with the Ethiopian Diaspora residing across the United States, H.E Girma Birru, Special Envoy and Ambassador Extra-Ordinary to the US, Mexico and Jamaica, briefed members of the Diaspora living in Texas at the city's International Trade Centre on 26 March 2016.

In his briefing, the Ambassador once again put in clear terms the opportunities that Ethiopia and its government offer for those who are interested to investing in the country. The conducive environment prevailing in Ethiopia, a range of options for investment and government's incentives were some of the issues that have been covered by the briefing. Ambassador Girma Birru urged and called upon the Diaspora community to take the opportunity by investing in Ethiopia, primarily to help themselves, their country and creating jobs for their kith and kin.

During the meeting, Ambassador Girma underlined the fact that Ethiopia's consecutive economic growth for years made the country one of the few fast growing economies in the world, and in this regard he further reiterated the essence of time saying that "anyone who wants to bet on investing today in Ethiopia could have better choices than tomorrow". Thus, he extended invitation for the assembled Diaspora to either come up with any partner or form a group of investors among themselves or to invest individually.

On their part, the participants expressed their satisfaction with regards to the clarification of issues by Ambassador Girma Birru that are of significant importance to make knowledge based decision so as to invest in Ethiopia. Many hailed the forum as timely and appropriate as it enabled them to make sense of the overall situation in Ethiopia, particularly in the area of investment.



Pictures from the event

Furthermore, among the Diaspora community who were present at the meeting, Assistant Professor Bisrat Debebe from the MD Anderson Cancer Center, University of Texas told the gathering that he and his colleges have been working with the Ethiopian Ministry of Health in order to shore up cancer treatment in Ethiopia through the transfer of appropriate technology. Before the meeting was concluded, Ambassador Girma Birru had given pertinent answers to questions raised by the participants on current issues in Ethiopia and of interest to the Diaspora.

The Fifth Anniversary of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD)



Pictures from the event

The event was organized by the Ethiopian Renaissance Council in Houston in collaboration with Ethiopian Embassy in Washington, D.C., it was learnt.

Ethiopians, both at home and abroad, irrespective of their creed, faith, ethnic background, and age have been striving in unison to build the renaissance dam with the sole purpose of alleviating poverty and achieving self reliance.

At present the dam has reached over 52% and upon completion it would generate the 6,000 MW of Energy for the country. The internationally agreed principle of fair and equitable utilization of water resources without one negatively impacting the other is fully embraced by Ethiopia. It is possible to say that this consistent position held by Ethiopia could be considered as a source of strength and its collaboration with all riparian countries.

When the late Prime Minister Meles Zenawi laid down the cornerstone of the dam, the ex-premier stated that the responsibility to construct and the ownership of the dam in its entirety rested with the Ethiopian people. In his speech, the visionary leader said that "...Indeed, the current disposition is to make attempts to undercut Ethiopia's efforts to secure funding to cover the cost of the project. We have, in fact, been forced to rely on our own

savings alone to cover the expense. As we will be financing several other projects in our plan, the expense will be an additional and heavy burden on us. All our efforts to lighten this have been unsuccessful, leaving us with only two options. Either to abandon the project or do whatever we must to raise the required funds."



Speaking at the 5th anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, in Guba, the construction site, on April 02, 2016, Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn said that the construction of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) has been the result of the nation's own capacity and fruitful diplomacy dedicated at exploiting its resources as a tool for reducing poverty in the country. The Premier further stated that the Dam has proved that Ethiopia has developed full capacity to exploit its own resources to the best end of tackling poverty. In this regard, he noted that the construction of GERD has been a living attestation that Ethiopia can handle mega projects with its own resources and own professionals. The Dam which is being funded by the people and government of Ethiopia has tremendously advanced national consensus and that the nation has resolved to create a spirit of mutual trust among the riparian countries, he added.

Ethiopia: Land of Origins



Ethiopia which has been using "Thirteen Months of Sunshine" as its tourism logo globally has changed recently into a logo that can fittingly display its resources. Since the previous symbol was not complete given the tourism potential of the country, a new logo fully describing the country's tourist destinations, religious holidays, folklores and wildlife resources, among others has been more telling and catchy.

The new logo, "Land of Origins" will help people worldwide to get general information about Ethiopia. The new logo is believed to help Ethiopia's tourism industry to be more attractive and contribute much to the economy. The new logo will be instrumental in increasing the country's tourist destinations, religious holidays, folklore and wildlife resources, among others.

It is also imperative that the new logo which will embrace the current efforts that the country is making to modernize itself in tandem with the already existing tourist destinations, will also play a plausible role that UNESCO recognized places and peoples, and the various folkloric and faith related sites are believed to increase the tourist number flowing in to the country. It is to be recalled that Ethiopia has been named as the "world's unique tourism destination" in 2015.

while revealing the new tourism brand at world's biggest travel platform in Berlin, Ethiopian traditional coffee was served to participants of the leading travel trade show which attracted 185 countries and 10,000 exhibitors.

Ambassador Girma Birru met with Congressman Mike Coffman



H.E. Ambassador Girma Birru met with Congressman Mike Coffman, member of the United States Congress , on 23 March 2016.

During the discussion, Ambassador Girma expressed his appreciation to Rep. Mike Coffman for sending a letter requesting to discuss the state of affairs in Ethiopia and briefed the Congressman on the prevailing conditions. Rep. Mike thanked Ambassador Girma for the briefing on the situation in different regions of Ethiopia and expressed his views in this regard. on his part, Ambassador Girma Birru stated his readiness to work together and further strengthen the cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

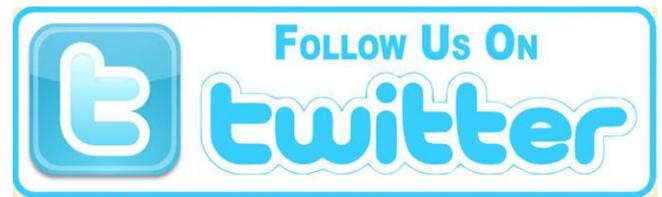
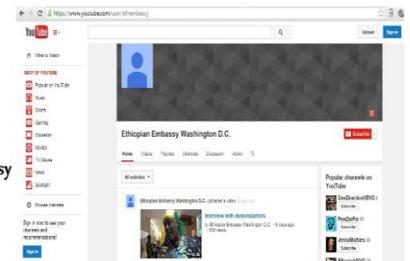
Connect with us:



<https://www.facebook.com/ethembassy>



<https://www.youtube.com/user/ethembassy>



<https://www.twitter.com/ethembassyUS>

Contact Us:

EMBASSY OF ETHIOPIA

3506 International Drive, NW

Washington D.C., 20008

Email: ethiopia@ethiopianembassy.org

Tel: 202 364 1200

Fax: 202 587 0195

www.ethiopianembassy.org