



ETHIO NEWS

Politics

GERMAN VICE CHANCELLOR'S VISIT TO ETHIOPIA



German Vice Chancellor Sigmar Gabriel with Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn
Photo:mfa

Prime Minister Hailemariam received the Vice-Chancellor and Foreign Minister of Germany, Sigmar Gabriel, at his office on May 2. They explored ways to facilitate the engagement of German investors in the manufacturing sector of Ethiopian industrial parks. They discussed on issues of regional peace and stability, with a particular focus on political developments in Somalia and the current situation in South Sudan and considered how to further strengthen their partnership and cooperation on regional and international affairs. They agreed to support efforts of rebuilding Somalia through maintaining the existing peace and security and creating jobs for the Somali youth.

POLISH PRESIDENT'S STATE VISIT TO ETHIOPIA



President Andrzej Duda and President Dr. Mulatu Teshome
Photo:mfa

Polish President Andrzej Duda arrived in

Addis Ababa on May 7 for a two-day official visit as part of his country's commitment to strengthen the Ethio-Polish trade and investment ties. The President was accompanied by First Lady Agata Kornhauser-Duda, and other high-level Polish officials. The President's trip also aimed to get support from members of the African Union for his country's bid to take the Eastern Europe non-permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council for 2018-2019.

Ahead of the trip, President Duda revealed that his visit was mainly intended to drum up business in Africa at large and Ethiopia in particular. A top presidential aide commented "Poland and Polish businesses are looking for investment areas in Africa." He noted that two major Polish investments and a number of large companies were already operating in Ethiopia.

President Duda met with President Dr. Mulatu Teshome on May 8 at the National Palace. During the meeting the two Heads of State shared views on various issues, including ways to improve trade which currently stands only at US\$36 million. They agreed that the two countries needed to boost their trade ties. President Duda voiced his hope that trade between the two countries would increase to a level of hundreds of millions of dollars. Poland is a big market in Europe, as is Ethiopia in Africa. He said "I would like Polish companies to invest in Ethiopia – to invest literally but also to invest in Ethiopians". Referring to Polish agricultural products being processed in Ethiopia, he said "I would like Polish goods to appear in Ethiopian stores, but to be produced in Ethiopia." President Duda said he would like Polish business and the Polish state "to contribute to the development of Ethiopia, while making a profit at the same time."

President Duda visited a plant operated by Polish tractor manufacturer Ursus in Ethiopia. He noted the Ursus venture in Adama was possible thanks to an agreement concluded in 2013. This had led Poland to

agree special credit lines to implement production and cooperation tasks between Poland and Ethiopia. It was part of the GoAfrica business program set up by the Polish government. President Duda said he would like as many Polish entrepreneurs and Polish companies as possible to make use of the program, to become interested in the African market, and he encouraged more companies to invest in Africa. Ursus estimates that the value of contracts at its Ethiopia arm over the last four years have amounted to some US\$110 million. On May 7 the Polish President met with Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn. The two leaders agreed to take practical steps to further strengthen cooperation between the two countries and discussed ways of enhancing economic and people-to-people ties between Ethiopia and Poland. According to Krzysztof Szczerski, Polish Secretary of State, they agreed to improve cooperation in agriculture, infrastructure, information technology and education. They also considered ways of strengthening relations in the political arena with particular reference to peace and security. President Duda emphasized that Poland recognized Ethiopia's diplomatic importance in Africa, and expressed his country's desire to use Ethiopia as a gateway to its relations with the rest of Africa. President Duda also visited the Headquarters of the African Union and spoke at an African Union Forum: "We are open to friendly cooperation as partners, offering our extensive experience, among other things in economic transformation. We want to invest in Africa". He noted that Poland conducted joint business projects and finance development projects through its GoAfrica program, stressing that half of the priority partners in its development cooperation program were African countries. The President also made it clear Poland would like to have African backing for Poland's bid for a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council for 2018-2019. Voting takes place next month.



PRIME MINISTER HAILE-MARIAM'S STATE VISIT TO CHINA



China remains an important business partner for Ethiopia
Photo:mfa

The Prime Minister arrived in Beijing on Friday May 12 at the head of a delegation that included Foreign Minister Dr. Workneh. He met with China's President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Li Keqiang in advance of the Belt and Road Forum as well as holding a series of business meetings. After the Forum he also visited Shandong Province. During his visit, the Prime Minister was awarded an honorary professorship by the University of International Business and Economics, in Beijing. Chinese President Xi Jinping told Prime Minister Hailemariam that China and Ethiopia needed to elevate their bilateral relations to a comprehensive strategic partnership of cooperation. He said cooperation between China and Ethiopia played a leading role in China-Africa cooperation and Ethiopia was crucial to China's collaboration with the continent at large. This underlined the need to upgrade ties to reflect the "strategic aspect and the high level of political mutual trust of the bilateral relations". China welcomed Ethiopia's participation in the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, and supported its role as a bridge between the Belt and Road Initiative and Africa's development. President Jinping urged the two countries to promote cooperation in such areas as connectivity, production capacity, trade and economy, people-to-people exchanges, as well as aviation. Prime Minister Hailemariam, welcoming the suggestion, said Ethiopia and China had achieved significant improve-

ments in cooperation in areas including trade and economy, investment, industrial capacity and infrastructure construction. Describing the Initiative as a farsighted initiative with global implications, which would promote connectivity and cooperation in trade and investment, he said Ethiopia would actively join in the construction of the Belt and Road.

Prime Minister Hailemariam also met with China's Prime Minister, Li Keqiang, on May 12 who noted that upgrading the China-Ethiopia relationship would help the two countries consolidate political mutual trust, expand cooperation, and advance major China-Africa cooperation plans and production capacity cooperation. Mr. Keqiang said China supports Ethiopia's industrialization and agricultural modernization, and was willing to offer help in areas such as human resources development and finance to assist the independent and sustainable growth of Ethiopia. Prime Minister Hailemariam said the cooperation of the two countries' on production capacity had greatly promoted Ethiopia's industrialization and agricultural modernization. The two prime ministers witnessed the signing of a number of bilateral cooperation agreements covering economic and technological cooperation and human resources development.

Earlier, Prime Minister Hailemariam had attended the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, which had been held in Beijing from May 14-15 under the theme "Strengthening international cooperation and co-building the 'Belt and Road' for win-win development". It was attended by 29 Heads of State and Government and representatives from more than 130 countries and 70 international organizations. The Belt and Road Initiative takes its inspiration from the ancient Silk Road trading route and began in 2013. It aims to connect more than 60 countries which account 60 percent of the world's population and 30 percent of global economic output with physical, commercial, cultural, and other links. In fact, so far, 68 countries and international organizations have signed multilateral agreements with China on cooperation in building the Silk Road Economic Belt and the Maritime Silk Road and

China has agreements with the governments of 30 countries, including Ethiopia and Kenya to expand industrial investment and enhance trade connectivity. The Export-Import Bank of China has also signed loan agreements on industrial park projects, projects for power transmission and distribution, wind power, water, dams, satellite and hydraulic factory projects with a number of countries including Ethiopia and Kenya.

Economy

ETHIO-GERMAN BUSINESS EVENTS IN HANNOVER AND STUTTGART



State Minister Dr. Mebrahtu Meles headed the delegation
Photo:mfa

The 3rd Ethio-German Business day opened in Hannover on May 30, organized by the Afrika-Verein and the Ethiopian Embassy in Berlin. The gathering featured a multitude of keynote speeches by a high-ranking Ethiopian delegation. The State Minister at the Ministry of Industry, H.E. Dr. Mebrahtu Meles, provided insights into Ethiopia's current economic outlook and opportunities for trade and investment for German companies.

The Ethio-German Business Forum, a follow-up event in Stuttgart, began on May 31. The Forum was co-organized by the Ethiopian Consulate General Office in Frankfurt and the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Labour and Housing of the State of Baden-Wurttemberg. It brought together dozens of German companies and their Ethiopian counterparts and aimed to promote trade as well as financial and commercial links between investors and traders.



Culture

AFRICAN UNION DAY CELEBRATED IN BERLIN



A display of traditional garments was part of Ethiopia's contribution to the cultural program

The African Union Day was celebrated in Berlin on May 23. The event was opened by a multitude of keynote speeches and a panel discussion under the theme "The African Continent - Challenges and Opportunities". Participating panellists were Dr. Agnes Kalibata (AGRA), Veye Tatah (Africa Positive), Ambassador Georg Schmidt from the Federal Foreign Office, Prof. Sebastian Dullien (HTW Berlin) and Eva Schulz-Kamm (Siemens).

In a massive collaboration all African foreign missions in Germany gathered to provide traditional food and entertainment afterwards.

ETHIOPIA CELEBRATES 26TH VICTORY DAY



Ralph Timmermann addresses the guests at the residence

May 28 marks the Ethiopian national day, or "Victory Day". It is a historic day for the Nations, Nationalities and Peoples of Ethiopia, as 26 years ago it brought an end to nearly two decades of war and instability, during which the Ethiopian peoples had suffered and endured the brutality of the extreme and ruthless military dictatorship of the Derg. Victory Day celebrates



The celebration was preceded by an open discussion with the Ethiopian diaspora



Good weather, good food, good music and the festive occasion naturally cumulate in dancing

hope, peace, dignity and development, representing the end to the dark years in which the misguided and ill-informed policies of the military regime had shattered the lives of so many civilians across the country. It marks the real transition to peace and stability, democracy, economic development. Accordingly, this important day saw an appropriate celebration by the Ethiopian Embassy, members of the Ethiopian diaspora in Germany, members of the international diplomatic community and

many other guests. The former German ambassador to Liberia and current department head for the Horn of Africa subregion at the Federal Foreign Office, Ralph Timmermann, addressed the attendees in a keynote speech. The celebration was preceded by an open discussion with the Ethiopian Diaspora and lasted well into the late evening hours with a generous helping of traditional food, music and dance.