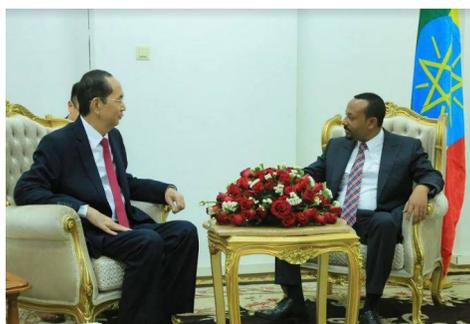




ETHIO NEWS

Politics

VIETNAM STATE VISIT TO ETHIOPIA



President Tran Dai Quang and PM Abiy

Photo: mfa

The President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Tran Dai Quang, arrived in Addis Ababa, for a three-day state visit on August 23. He was welcomed at Bole International Airport by the President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Dr Mulatu Teshome, high ranking government officials and members of the Ethiopian Public Diplomacy Team.

President Dr. Mulatu and President Quang then held discussions on ways of further enhancing cooperation and ties between Ethiopia and Vietnam. During the discussions, both at a tete-a-tete and bilateral levels presided over by the two presidents, the focus was on trade, investment, tourism, peace and security as well as people-to-people ties. They looked at the numerous possible areas for co-operation including trade, investment, tourism, education, aviation and telecommunications and underlined the need to further consolidate Ethio-Vietnamese cooperation for the benefit and common aspirations of the peoples of both countries. President Dr. Mulatu and President Quang then oversaw the signing of two Memoranda of Understanding on Cooperation and Investment Cooperation as well as on an Agreement on Mutual Visa Waivers.

During a joint press conference, President Dr Mulatu expressed his appreciation for the Vietnamese President for paying a historic, first-ever state visit by a Vietnamese leader since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries 42 years ago. Touching on the areas where Ethiopia and Vietnam could further cooperate in the future, Dr Mulatu expressed Ethiopia's readiness to explore and widen the full spectrum of mutually

beneficial opportunities in areas including, but not limited to, intensification of political ties by way of establishing contact at all levels, facilitation of more investment by Vietnamese companies in areas such as telecommunications, textile, food processing and the aviation industry, along with exchanges of views and best practices in several areas of mutual importance. President Quang expressed his profound gratitude to President Dr. Mulatu for the warm welcome accorded to him personally and to his delegation. He added he was more than happy to be in Ethiopia, 'the Cradle of Mankind' and 'the Land of Origins'. He noted that their discussions had been fruitful, helping both sides to explore areas to expand and strengthen ties in various areas including aviation, telecommunications and education. President Quang commended Ethiopia's historic role in the national liberation of many countries on the continent as well as its continued pivotal role in the maintenance of peace and security in the sub-region and beyond through organizations such as the UN and its current non-permanent membership of the UN Security Council.

President Quang also noted that the Republic of Vietnam was ready to bolster its ties with Ethiopia through the facilitation of mutual visits at highest levels, through parliamentary cooperation and people-to-people ties, as well as development cooperation and collaboration in their common aspirations for global peace and security.

During his visit, President Tran Dai Quang met the Speaker of the House of Peoples' Representatives of Ethiopia, Speaker Mufarihat Kamil, at the Sheraton Addis on August 24. Their meeting focused on further expanding and consolidating the historical and longstanding relations between the two countries, especially in the areas of Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation and people-to-people ties. Ms. Mufarihat, noted Ethiopia and Vietnam had signed several cooperative agreements, which she said were an epitome of the ever-growing relations between the two Governments as well as their peoples. She reassured the Vietnamese President of the strong political will of the Government of Ethiopia to enhance people-to-people ties and the political relations at the highest level.

GERMAN MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT VISITS ETHIOPIA



Minister Müller and PM Abiy

Photo: mfa

Prime Minister Dr. Abiy took a phone call from German Chancellor Angela Merkel on August 28. The Chancellor congratulated Dr. Abiy on Ethiopia's economic and political reforms and the recent peace agreement with Eritrea, ending two decades of "No peace No war". She also invited him to visit Germany, an invitation the Prime Minister accepted. The Prime Minister, who met Dr. Gerd Müller, German's Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development on August 24, underlined his appreciation of Germany's continued support for Technical and Vocational Educational Training (TVET) in Ethiopia and other areas.

During Dr. Müller's visit Ethiopia and Germany signed a grant agreement amounting 100 million Euros as well as a Joint Declaration of Intent on Special Initiative on Training and Job Creation. The agreement allows for support for TVET training and job creation in Ethiopia, financially and technically. The main purpose of the Joint Declaration of Intent is to complement the Government's effort towards creating more job opportunities. "Since 70 percent of Ethiopian population is under the age of 30, it is important to give due attention to enhancing capacity of the youth", Minister of Finance and Economic Cooperation, Dr. Abraham Tekeste added. The cooperation will also provide for a conducive environment for an appraisal mission for job partnerships to visit Ethiopia to identify the potential activities to be implemented under the initiative.

German Development Minister Gerd Müller, who was on the second day of a trip to seven African countries (Eritrea, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Chad and Ghana), met Prime Minister Dr. Abiy in Addis Ababa. He said: "Ethiopia is



Recent political relations of Ethiopia and Germany

2002, 2004, 2011	Former Prime Minister Meles Zenawi visits Germany
2014	Former Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn visits Germany
2016	Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel visits Ethiopia
2017	Minister of Foreign Affairs Sigmar Gabriel visits Ethiopia
2017, 2018	Minister for Economic Cooperation Gerd Müller visits Ethiopia
2018	Minister of Foreign Affairs Heiko Maas visits Ethiopia

a country on the move: just a few months ago, with the conclusion of peace, Ethiopia and Eritrea made history. At the same time, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed presents an impressive pace of reform. Since my last visit in 2017, there have been changes hardly imaginable previously: the state of emergency has been lifted and thousands of political prisoners have been released. State-owned enterprises are to be opened up to foreign investors.", and he added, "To further support this reform momentum, we aim to deepen our cooperation towards a reform partnership." The Minister said that the decision made to end the long tension between the two countries and open a new chapter of peace 'is truly historic'. The German Federal Foreign Office had previously expressed its appreciation of Ethiopia's peace efforts back in June 2018.

"The prime minister is leading the way in the peace process together with Eritrea - it has the full support of Germany and Europeans and we are thankful and appreciate the development to the fullest extent" he said.

Dr. Müller noted that Germany this year would launch its special initiative, 'Education and Employment', introducing a vocational training system, which is based on the German model together with Ethiopia and providing incentives for private investment. At Ethiopia's request, a practical system of vocational training with company-based training is currently being developed with the support of the Economic Co-operation and Development Ministry (BMZ). Germany is also supporting Ethiopia in the textile and clothing industry, as well as being prepared to invest more in climate-adapted production methods in agriculture.

GERMAN AND ETHIOPIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS SHARE EXPERIENCES



Deputy Speaker Shitaye Minale

Photo: mfa

A German parliamentary delegation led by Christoph Matschie held discussions with their Ethiopian counterparts at the Capital Hotel on August 27.

During the occasion, House of People's Representatives (HPR) Deputy Speaker Shitaye Minale said the German delegation shared their experiences on empowering women in parliament and the organization of standing committees.

She added that the HPR needs to share experiences in ways of tackling good governance, sustainable development and monitoring executive bodies as they are the challenges the people want to be resolved. Hence the parliament wants to learn from experiences of Germans.

MP Christoph Matschie said on his part Germany wants to work with Ethiopian parliament to share their experiences.

He added that the German Parliament has an oversight security and intelligence special committee that is not normally known by the public but by the parliament.

Matschie noted that "unbelievable and very positive reform has been going in Ethiopia and that is the reason we are here to support the process of the reform

like legislation process and foreign investment."

The House of People's Representatives has set up a committee to revise the procedures of the parliament, widen political space, and sign memorandums of understanding between all ministries and standing committees of parliament on areas of improving accountability and transparency, it was learned.

US DELEGATION VISITS ETHIOPIA



Congressman Christopher Smith with PM Abiy

Photo: mfa

Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed received a US delegation led by Republican Congressman Christopher Smith on August 23. According to Fitsum Arega, Chief of Staff at the Prime Minister's Office, the two parties exchanged views on a range of bilateral and regional issues. Prime Minister Dr Abiy updated the delegation about Ethiopia's current political and economic reform initiatives.

ETHIOPIA'S LEADING ROLE IN SOUTH-SUDANESE NEGOTIATIONS

Ethiopia, under the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, has been playing a leading role in the negotiations between rival parties in South Sudan.

Briefing journalists on August 27, Foreign Affairs State Minister Hirut Zemene said "Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed gave interim responsibility to Sudan to continue the negotiations between South Sudanese parties. Negotiations were managed earlier at ministerial level, but later shifted to leader level."

Accordingly, IGAD's effort has continued and Sudan will report the progress to IGAD, it was learned. Hirut stated that Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed proposed on June 21 that the bridging proposal submitted by IGAD Council of Ministers be endorsed and Sudan take the responsibility of negotiating the parties at a higher level.



IGAD appreciated Ethiopia's role at the ministerial level to undertake the negotiation process and specially for producing the bridging proposal. It also appreciated Sudan's dedication at same level on its August 11 meeting, she added.

Accordingly, Sudan started the mediation process with the rivals on June 25 based on the proposal and the rivals agreed when to build one army and to dissolve the parliament and restructure it.

Ethiopia, as an IGAD member, assigned a special envoy to follow and contribute to resolve the conflict in South Sudan in 2011, Hirut stated.

ETHIOPIA AND ERITREA FURTHER EXPAND TIES



Foreign Minister Workneh Gebeyehu visiting the site of the future Ethiopian Embassy in Eritrea

Photo: mfa

Since the momentous culmination of the end of the state of war between Ethiopia and Eritrea both Governments as well as their peoples have continued to demonstrate their commitments in scaling up collective endeavours in developing socio-economic and political ties. Developments have already included the restoration of phone links, helping families to talk after two decades and the re-launch of air transport connections.

The two countries, in another bid to augment their growing ties, agreed on August 10 to increase the movement and amount of bilateral trade through Eritrea's port city of Assab to Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa. This was unveiled during a meeting in Addis Ababa between Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed and Reem Al Hashimy, the UAE's State Minister for International Co-

operation. Their discussions, according to Fitsum Arega, Chief of Staff of the Office of the Prime Minister, focused largely on investment in sectors including "industries, agriculture, real estate, oil pipeline and resorts".

The construction of a pipeline would allow landlocked Ethiopia to export crude oil. Some oil was produced on a test basis from the Somali Regional State in June this year, and access to the port of Assab would be one way of exporting it. It would offer significant potential for both economies and assist in their economic integration as well as of the region, helping to create an internationally competitive economy. Increasing use of other ports in the region will also help facilitate a higher output of goods and passengers, paving more ways to boost the service sectors.

There is still a huge opportunity to explore in terms of further opening up new venues of cooperation and partnership between Ethiopia and Eritrea as well as facilitating the process of economic integration in the region. As Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has repeatedly articulated, it is through Medemer, "coming together" that the previously intractable national and regional challenges will be addressed.

Logistics

FIRST ERITREAN AIRLINES FLIGHT TO ADDIS ABABA

An Eritrean Airlines carrier arrived at the Bole International Airport carrying a high-level Eritrean delegation led by Eritrean Minister of Transport and Communications, Tesfasellase Berhane, on August 4. It included the Minister of Tourism, Askale Menkerios and the Director General of Eritrean Civil Aviation Authority, Paulos Kahsai together with the passengers on board for the landmark flight. The delegation was welcomed by State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mrs Hirut Zemene, State Minister for Transport, Eshete Asfaw and Ethiopian Airlines CEO, Tewolde Gebremariam and the Director General of Ethiopian Civil Aviation Authority, Colonel Wosenyehle Hunegnaw.

Speaking at the ceremony celebrating the event, State Minister Hirut expressed her elation and said that "this is a special day." She noted Ethiopia and Eritrea had reached a remarkable milestone in a span of only 6 weeks since their rapprochement started. This, she said, demonstrated the epitome of the new culture of mutual respect and cooperation as well as the common aspiration for development shared by the peoples of Ethiopia and Eritrea. Mrs Hirut underlined the fact that the peoples of the two countries shared commonalities in social, cultural and economic spheres. Eritrean Minister of Transport, Tesfasel-

lasie, said that "Eritrean Airlines is not going to compete with Ethiopian Airlines but we are going to cooperate in assisting each other." He noted, "we will work together in the development of the business community as well as the development of the two countries."

Airlines CEO, Tewolde Gebremariam noted that this historic inaugural flight from Asmara by Eritrean Airlines was indicative of a burgeoning demand for ever-growing aviation cooperation between Ethiopia and Eritrea. He added that there were discussions underway between the two airlines to expand their scope of cooperation.

Culture

DAY OF THE OPEN GOVERNMENT DOOR AT THE BMZ IN BERLIN



Ethiopian Coffee Ceremony being performed by Mrs. Hanim Krimmling at the main stage of the Open Door event at the BMZ in Berlin

Photo: emb

Berlin held its yearly Open Government event in Berlin in late August. Ministries and other institutions of public service opened their doors to provide a unique look behind the scenes to the visiting citizens. The German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development celebrated the occasion on August 25 with a day-long event that showcased its international presence. Visitors were able to learn about sustainable agriculture and industry abroad and enjoy foreign cultures, tradition, music and cuisine. Many of Berlin's embassies participated. Two Ethiopian coffee ceremonies added to the fragrant potpourri of aromas that day and provided visitors with enough strength and energy to enjoy the whole 10-hour event. "I don't wish to commend the coffee directly", said a German participant of one of the coffee ceremonies, "but I can tell you that I am now considering a visit to Ethiopia". The event was hosted by the Ministry's State Secretary Martin Jäger, who commended all embassy's eager participation and provided all present diplomats with a private tour of the Ministry.