

*<http://www.aethiopien-botschaft.de/botschaft/index.html>*

8.3.2005

The Deutsch-Aethiopischer Verein held a 2-day conference in Berlin-Wannsee between March 5-6, 2005 at which issues of trade and the protection of natural resources in Ethiopia were discussed.

100-130 Ethiopians and Germans attended the meeting which was addressed by the General Manager of the Environmental Authority of Ethiopia, alternate Nobel Prize winner, Dr. Tewoldeberhan Gebreegziabher.

He spoke on 'Ethiopia and the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the Biosafety Protocol, its impact on small farmers.' He also presented a statement on the impact of Ethiopian membership at the WTO and on local people.

A member of the German Parliament, Mr. Ernst-Ulrich Weizsaecker, also addressed the meeting on the possibilities and chances for enhancing sustainability.

Others who spoke at the meeting included Ms. Aregash Asfaw of the GTZ on public-private partnerships in Ethiopia; Sue Edwards of the Institute for Sustainable Development in Ethiopia on projects being carried out in the country; Dr. Fekade Bekele, a resident of Berlin on the impact of trade relationships and strategies for development; Hartmut Meyer of the GTZ on German policies regarding biosafety; Christine v. Weizsaecker, a researcher on innovative cooperation versus old conflicts regarding biodiversity; and representatives from Bread for the World, Humboldt University (Berlin), and the Bonn University Wild Coffee Project.

The meeting was opened by the Ambassador Hiruy Amanuel of Ethiopia.

The conference brought together Ethiopians and friends of the country together to discuss a controversial but important subject in the life of the Ethiopian people.

It was suggested that more discussions of this nature be undertaken by the Deutsch-Aethiopischer Verein in the future.