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International Trade and the Protection of Natural Resources in Ethiopia

DÄV-Konferenz am 5. und 6. März 2005 in Berlin

Dieses Heft enthält Kurzfassungen (Summaries) einiger Referate, die bei der obigen Konferenz gehalten wurden. Sie wurden von Ingrid Hartmann und Abiy Tsegaye erstellt. Die Langfassungen finden sich auf der Homepage des DÄV.

Smallholder Farmers, the Convention on Bio-Diversity CBD and the Biosafety Protocol Summary

Tewolde Berhan Gebre Egziabher, Director General, Environmental Protection Authority, Addis Ababa

Ethiopia is the Vavilov Centre with the highest crop genetic diversity under cultivation. Much of the genetic resource wealth of Ethiopia went into enriching the industrialised world with the Ethiopians getting virtually nothing in return. The Convention on Biological Diversity is the first international law that has tried to start redressing this injustice. It recognises genetic resources as national and the granting of access to genetic resources as a sovereign right of the state and the right of states for fair and equitable share of the benefits that arise from genetic resources. Also it recognises the rights of indigenous and local communities to a share of these benefits and also the right to the ownership and control of the knowledge they have accumulated on the sustainable use of bio-diversity. Nevertheless, enforcing these regulations has become an uphill struggle, since the industrialised countries are happy to get access to genetic resources and community knowledge, however do not want to share benefits.

History should give some insights, if this attitude is justified. Humans co-evolved with their predators, preys, food plants, disease causing organisms and competitors. The path of evolution that gave them the competitive advantage of modifying their environment gave rise to the construction of shelters, the making of clothing and thence of other industries. This meant that the technological frontier kept moving further and further polewards. Since survival depended on group action, human evolution moreover was correlated with a strong community organisation. When humans moved polewards, the increasing seasonality made it essential to stay indoors for increasingly longer time each year, which made the family rather than the local community the function unit of organisation, and the state took over the former function of the community. The poleward movement of humans, therefore, produced an incremental growth in science and technology, inequality between

the sexes, a demise of the local community and a regimentation of the individual, so that nowadays the differences in the male individual dominated and more powerful North and the local community dominated and weaker South stand out as compatible counterparts. The former treats anything communal as a free good as indeed does the latter, but for opposing reasons and towards opposing ends. Legal norms for protecting the innovations of Northern individuals have been developed in this era of globalisation, but not for protecting the innovations of their southern counterparts, the indigenous and local communities. As a result, thousands of Southern collective innovations are not only used by Northern natural and legal individuals without reciprocity, but are given private IPR protection and thus withdrawn from the common pool, leading in the worst cases to bio-piracy.

To protect against this, the CBD defined some benefit sharing agreements that should accrue to an owner of genetic resources, which also have been incorporated into the African Model Law on the Protection of the

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Rights of Local Communities. Patenting is not directly prohibited by the CBD but not allowed in most developing countries and the issue, as far as living organisms are concerned, has caused a North-South divide. Impacts of genetic engineering are in their majority either uncertain or negative, as there are:

Risks to health and/or bio-diversity and environment, possible threats to small-scale farmers, dangers also because mostly in the hand of the private sector and controlled by corporations, dangers for genetic erosion through transgenic crops. Through genetic engineering plants, animals and micro-organisms get the status of commodities, which could disturb the balance of micro-organisms in the environment with disastrous consequences for all life. Moreover it could lead to a loss of

market for traditional agricultural products especially from developing countries. However, genetic engineering gives chances to do things equivalent to creating and reproducing, thus overcoming death, therefore genetic engineering becomes a sublimation of both culture and sex and as such accordingly appealing to the genetic engineer.

With these examples it is shown that the global world has become a technical union that makes all parts of the world interlinked and thus indivisible, but also systematically divided into the poor and the rich – the weak and the powerful. Nevertheless, the speaker hopes that this divide will disappear and the mentioned disharmonies will hasten the inevitable delivery of a harmonious future.

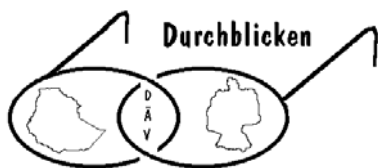
German Policies on Biosafety in Regard to the African Union Summary

Hartmut Meyer, GTZ

The German development policy on co-operation in matters of bio-safety in general has been formulated by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Co-operation and Development (BMZ) together with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) in 2000 after the Cartagena Protocol on Bio-safety was adopted.

A short history of the Cartagena Protocol on Bio-safety

The Cartagena Protocol on Bio-safety (CPB), the first international law to regulate genetic engineering, was entered into force on 11, Sep 2003. The Protocol outlined the minimum international standards for the evaluation of risks posed by genetically modified organisms and minimum international standards governmental



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decision procedures.

The Cartagena Protocol could secure following points:

- States must be informed and agree before an import of GMOs for environmental use can be undertaken.
- States can base their decisions concerning the approval of these GMOs on a strong version of the Precautionary Principle.
- The Protocol initiated an international negotiation process on specific GMO liability. The German Genetech Act adopted just some weeks ago has already incorporated strong liability clauses.
- The Protocol initiated an international discussion on the inclusion of socio-economic issues in the decision-making. A concrete example in our country is the current discussion on co-existence between GE and conventional crops.

But the Protocol has significant gaps in the following areas:

- Domestic development of LMOs (living modified organisms)
- Contained use of LMOs
- Approval of deliberate releases
- Approval of LMOs and their products for food and feed
- Labeling of LMOs and their products for food and feed

The conclusion of the Protocol has been hailed as a significant step forward, in that it provides an international regulatory framework to reconcile the respective needs of trade and environmental protection with respect to a rapidly growing global industry, the biotechnology industry.

The Cartagena Protocol provides that the implementation of the Protocol requires capacity building in developing countries in all the fields required to ensure safety, "including in biotechnology to the extent it is required for bio-safety". Most developing countries have no laws or regulations on bio-safety and lack the capacity, and technological and financial resources to regulate genetic engineering

Overview about the German Bio-safety Capacity Building Initiative

Bilateral biosafety projects

This Biosafety Capacity Building Initiative is implemented by GTZ and is located in the sector project "Im-

plementing the Biodiversity Convention". Up to now, we have received ten project proposals, out of which three have been approved.

One project is located in China, beside India the most crucial developing country in GMO issues. The SEPA is supported in building a database on field trials, in translating and making known the EU laws in China and in building up public information and participation structures together with Greenpeace China - a very ambitious project.

The second project is located in Algeria, where an environmental and rural NGO is supported in public information work in French and Arab language - work that is much neglected in the anglophone dominated bio-safety landscape and which has an impact on other countries in North and West Africa.

A third project is located in Peru where a legal NGO is producing information material in Spanish to influence the national bio-safety debate.

Regional biosafety projects

Beside these projects the German technical co-operation also supports a much bigger project in the context of its Africa portfolio - the bio-safety project of the African Union. The history of this project is almost as long and complicated as the bio-safety negotiations. The first concept was handed over by Dr. Tewolde in December 2000, when GTZ presented its initiative at an international bio-safety meeting.

After our initial excitement about such an opportunity - a continent-wide capacity building project with a high-level political partner on a demanding topic - we got caught in the realities of development programmes and institutional co-operation. It was clear from the beginning that the biodiversity sector project would not be able to support such a project - first, it would exceed the budget by far and second, the project does not have the mandate to develop regional projects on itself. A co-operation with the Africa Group within GTZ was the only way to turn this proposal into a real project, actually the complete financial support for the project stems from their budget. This co-operation between the Bio-diversity and the Africa Group implied that a purely bio-safety-orientated proposal had to be fitted into the German development policy concerning Africa. For Tewolde it was obvious how to undertake this exercise - for the German side it was a long process of informing and listening to each other until a mutual understanding how to integrate bio-safety policy into the Africa policy was build up. Furthermore, the two GTZ sections are politically connected to their counterpart divisions in the Ministry. In the end four German bodies had to agree on how to develop a project together with the AU - you can imagine what this combination of German and African administration and bureaucracy meant for the people who were engaged in realising the project.

Overview about the German Africa Policy

The German developmental policy supports governmental and non-governmental organisations that engage themselves in democratic development based on the human rights and fundamental values of democracy. Co-operations must aim at:

- reducing the current risks that challenge the efforts of people and Governments to choose their own ways to develop democracy, their societies and economies;

- securing the dignity and rights of the people;
- securing peace and security;
- •alleviating poverty.

One of several sectorial areas of possible co-operation is the support of African efforts to stabilise and improve the status of agrarian and natural ecosystems. In that respect we have to know and to acknowledge that a precise distinction between the different ecosystems is not possible in most African regions. European-like agriculture and land planning administration is unknown in most parts of Africa. The frontier between ecosystems without human influence, with little influence and severe influence is gradual - which does not mean that there are no problems with overexploitation, degradation. If you read the policy papers carefully, the agricultural sector seems to be absent from current development policies. In the context of current poverty-reduction policy, the approach to agriculture has changed in the last years from direct support of agricultural technology and plant breeding projects to awareness and capacity building activities for small-scale farmers - namely African women:

- more than 90% of basic food is produced by women;
- 70-80% of agricultural labor is done by women;
- their possibilities to get access to education, to determine the management of the family farm or small business, to enjoy land rights is limited, in many cases non-existent.

One of several existing approaches to institutional co-operation is the support of regional African organisations, first of all the AU. The two projects with the AU at that time were:

- Peace and Security
- Strengthening the Commission of the AU

The Peace and Security Project is planned as a nine-year-project with a budget of 18 mill EUR, one component is the contribution of 2 mill EUR for an UNDP-lead project on peace and security. The overall aim is to strengthen the organisation and work of the AU Commission and Council for Peace and Security. The AU Commission Project is planned as an 11-year-project with a budget of 12 mill EUR. It aims at building an appropriate structure and capacity within the AU headquarters to enable the AU to fulfil its new mandate in the fields of peace and security, good governance and regional harmonisation.

The way how to combine German biosafety and Africa policies in development co-operation

The most obvious approach to combine both policies would be in the field of environment. But actually, neither the AU nor the BMZ sees environmental projects as a prime field of co-operation. A connection between the gender projects with a strong grass-root component and the AU bio-safety proposal appeared to be unrealistic, the same was true for the activities in the field of peace and security. The only possible connection to run a bio-safety project under the topics of regional harmonisation and good governance. With the task of the AU member states to implement the UN bio-safety protocol and the still ongoing work of the AU to adopt a regional model law on safety in biotechnology a linkage could be built.

The political dimension of the project

The project is the first example of co-operation between a donor country and a regional organisation, represent-

ing their members at the highest political level, in the field of bio-safety. The project exhibits a pilot character with implications on harmonisation and regional integration that can be emulated by other projects. From the perspective of developmental policy, the project has a

Ecological Agriculture with Smallholder Farmers in Ethiopia Summary

Sue Edwards, Institute for Sustainable Development, Addis Ababa

In 1995 the Institute for Sustainable Development (ISD) together with the Bureau of Agriculture and Natural Resources (BoANR) of Tigray and started work with the aim of building on local technologies for the poor rural communities to improve their physical environment and soil fertility. This would raise crop yields without making them dependent on expensive external inputs.

The activities carried out so far have included promoting organic agriculture through composting, physical and biological soil and water conservation including gully treatment, water and soil harvesting, catchment protection, crop diversification, forage development and special support to women headed families. This increased the bio-mass in the farm and its surroundings. All this was made through community empowerment. The empowerment was achieved through suggesting that the communities themselves develop bylaws to govern their land and other natural resources management activities, and obtaining recognition of the bylaws by government administrative and law enforcement agencies. Farmers, development agents and local experts have been trained in various skills and now actively participate in evaluating the effectiveness of the activities of the project. The effects were as follows:

Maintaining or increasing agricultural bio-diversity: for example, one site was growing only wheat and barley mixed together and a little teff, but now other crops e.g. maize and faba bean, are also grown.

Reduced weeds: weed seeds, pathogens and insect pests are killed by the high temperature in the compost pits, but earthworms and other useful soil organisms establish well.

Increased moisture retention capacity of the soil: if rain stops early, crops grown on composted soil resist wilting for about two weeks longer than those grown on soil treated with chemical fertiliser.

Disease and pest resistance: as seen through the problem of shoot fly on teff and root borer on faba bean, crops are more disease and pest resistant.

Residual effect: farmers who have used compost for one or two years can obtain high yields from their crops the next year without applying compost afresh.

Public Private Partnership-projects of the GTZ in Ethiopia Summary

Aregash Asfaw, GTZ

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) as an international service enterprise for

great significance because it is rooted in an initiative by a large group of developing countries which regard strong environmental legislation as a basis for sustainable development.

Economic returns: farmers have been able to stop buying chemical fertiliser, but they still get even higher yields.

Flavour: food is said to taste better.

Youth Program

The Institute for Sustainable Development (ISD) is working with 21 schools selected from all parts of the country based on the idea of helping students learning about the value of their culture and bio-diversity through the project of cultural bio-diversity. Since the start of this project, some improved forums and opportunities with the objective of sharing experiences and creating awareness had been organised for teachers and students. Many activities with regards to conservation of culture and bio-diversity had also been conducted so as to strengthen the objective of the project.

Objectives:

The project is generally aimed at helping students in high schools to develop their activities in conducting studies about the conservation of their own cultures and bio-diversity.

Specific objectives:

1. To document the wide variety of cultures associated with the uses of farmer's varieties of seed and other planting materials and domestic animals in the livelihood strategies of Ethiopia's rural communities. Thereby able to maintain and transfer the cultural heritage to the next generation.
2. Provide youth with an opportunity to study and record their traditions in their use of plant and animal bio-diversity, and learn to respect these.
3. Publish examples of the most interesting and best-collected, compiled and presented samples of cultural bio-diversity.
4. Plan how these studies can be built up to become a regular feature of environmental club activities in schools and youth groups.
5. Identify stakeholders to ensure the ownership and sustainability of the project.

In 2005 into this program was included an exchange program of environmental facilitators between Ethiopia (ISD, Sue Edwards) and the Evangelic Academy Wittenberg (Katja Geissler).

Further information:

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development co-operation has been working in developing and reform states for about 30 years now, mainly on behalf of the German Government, but also for other public- and private-sector clients in Germany and abroad.

Co-operation with private sector within the frame work of the PPP program is an important aspect that has been added to the GTZ's work during the past six years.

PPPs are based on the fact that politicians, entrepreneurs and society as a whole are faced with huge challenges in fighting poverty, hunger and a growing number of natural disasters and violent conflicts. No one can solve these problems on his or her own. These have led to increase co-operation with the official development co-operation and the private sector. The aims are to bring economic growth into line with social progress and hence achieve the goal of sustainable development in a living process.

This is something that is also becoming more and more important for the private sector. Many companies are increasingly beginning to realise that sustainable development is in their interests too. To ensure that business activities are not solely geared towards short-term profit, many companies are placing a growing emphasis on integrating environmental and social standards into their work and offering upgrading measures for their employees. In doing so, the companies are making a major contribution to economic development in developing countries. They transfer new technologies, train experts, increase the quality of products and create new jobs.

The outstanding development goals that have been agreed on by the international community, such as the eradication of poverty and hunger, cannot be achieved without direct investments by the private sector. It is often these investments that create the conditions for jobs and hence for income, for education and for better opportunities for many people, making a tangible contribution towards poverty reduction.

This means that the private sector is increasingly becoming an important driving force behind development. Some goals of the private sector are, therefore, the same as those of official development co-operation.

It is in this context that the German Federal Ministry for Economic Co-operation and Development established the programme of public-private partnerships (PPPs) in 1999 and entrusted a number of organisations – among them GTZ – with the implementation of PPP-Projects. As per definition public-private partnerships are common projects that private companies and development organisations plan, finance and implement together.

The objective is to find measures that lead to a "win-win" situation for both, the public and the private sector.

Public Private Partnerships in Ethiopia

In Ethiopia seven PPP-Projects have been implemented or are in Implementation. Five are in the construction sector and two of them in the agricultural sector. Two examples are described below.

➤ Cooperation with GFM (Gerhart Fuchs Misdörffer Consulting Engineers – Munich)

GFM trained the Ethiopian Engineers in structural design checking. Different workshops have been held in Addis Ababa. The overall aim of this project was to improve the quality control in the construction sector. In the course of the project around 50 persons from private architectural and engineering offices have been qualified. The partnership with (GFM) has led to improved quality control and safety of buildings on the one hand, and led to an increased private sector involvement in the field of structural design checking and implementation on the other (it is being outsourced now under the guidance of the Ministry of Infrastructure).

The PPP implemented in Ethiopia tackled the problems in the construction sector from different angles, to im-

prove the overall situation and promote investment in the form of joint ventures between German and Ethiopian companies.

Both partners – the GTZ and the private companies – benefited from the PPP-Project:

➤ Sustainable coffee production and marketing

Ethiopia supplies 3% of world exports of coffee arabica, which accounts for 60% of its export revenue. Approximately 1.2 million coffee farmers and their families earn their living directly from this, about 15 million people indirectly. Due to the persistent low world market price for green coffee, many smallholders switch to growing drugs (chat); others fell the trees that give shade to the coffee plants to obtain fuel wood. This poses a massive threat to the survival of the genetic resources of Coffea arabica. As a result, the diversity of originally some 2,000 coffee varieties – unique in the world – is in danger of being irretrievably lost.

In order to approach the above mentioned problems, a joint strategic project has been built in the framework of the PPP. By the end of 2003 two private companies (Amber Corporation AG and Kraft Foods) and members of the civil society (GEO Schützt den Regenwald e.V., Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevölkerung, Center for Development Research – ZEF, Bonn, Amber Foundation and Rotarian) had signed a joint PPP-Project with the GTZ. The project will focus mainly on the Bonga and Oromai regions

The main purpose of the PPP project is to develop and introduce a scheme for sustainable coffee production and marketing at international quality standards using the natural resources of Ethiopia. This will improve the living conditions of the coffee farmers, by generating higher earnings and social measures, and make a contribution to conserving the genetic diversity of Ethiopian coffee.

Beside the improvement of the coffee production, activities in social and ecological sectors (family planning and HIV prevention) are underway. A number of information gathering activities are now ongoing, for example: on forest boundaries, forest extent, customary uses, traditional uses, village and resource mapping, identification of user and interest group, collection of views from different communities. This information gathering and evaluation will help to establish a plan for the sustainable use of the wild coffee.

Through this co-operation, it will be possible to coordinate, plan and carry out income-generating measures in the coffee producing sector, integral rural development and research. Marketing wild coffee provides an innovative finance scheme for the sustainable use of mountain rainforests.

Conclusion

Experience gained over the past six years has clearly shown that cooperation between GTZ and enterprises in developing countries opens up entirely new possibilities for development solutions. In the long term, GTZ aims to make public-private partnerships a permanent part of its work. As a result, all technical cooperation projects now in the planning stage are currently being assessed to ascertain their potential for PPP-components. PPPs will certainly not be able to replace the classical forms of development cooperation, but they do present an opportunity for better, faster and more cost-efficient development cooperation in certain sectors.

The Likely Impact of Ethiopia's Membership of the World Trade Organization on both its Rural and Urban People Summary

*Tewolde Berhan Gebre Egziabher, Director General,
Environmental Protection Authority, Addis Ababa*

Ethiopia has not been a member to the WTO up to now, but has applied for a membership recently. Since the WTO is still shaped to suit the demands of the 27 founding members of the GATT-agreement of 1947, a core of the WTO, who were the colonial masters of that time – is this a mistake? The argument from many Ethiopians is, that it is better to fight for justice from within than to be marginalized as a mere outsider. In the following the various implications of the WTO on Ethiopia and other DCs will be considered:

The World Trade Organization operates three major sectoral agreements which are binding on all its members: the **Multilateral Agreement on Trade in Goods** (including GATT 1947), the **General Agreement on Trade in Services**, and the **Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs)**.

The **Multilateral Agreement on Trade in Goods** implies that a member country may not discriminate among the member countries from which it imports specified goods, but may prohibit the importation of specified goods. However, this is the case only in the rich countries and all poor countries have had their markets forcefully opened to all goods. Once imported, discrimination between imported and domestically produced goods is prohibited and both have to be taxed equally. Under these conditions it is difficult to build local capacity and a weak and poor country is likely to remain weak and poor, always too small a market for its imports or exports to count for much globally. Within this, the *Agreement on Agriculture* has the aim of immediate reduction in, and quick elimination of, subsidies on agricultural products. In practice, it has only entrenched subsidies in North America, Japan, and the European Union and prevented

subsidies in developing countries. As a consequence, agriculture in the less energy-intensive South is depressed, and that in the energy-intensive North artificially maintained. This does not only perpetuate poverty in the South, but it has contributed substantially to climate change. Thus the links between current famines in Africa and trade policies are now mediated by the WTO agreements. Also easily a point could be reached where subsidies will not offset agricultural disruption owing to climate change even in the now rich North. Some other agreements within this are just perceived as to keep developing countries out of the market.

The **General Agreement on Trade in Services** forces developing countries to open their markets to Northern corporations. But service-giving companies (e.g. banks, insurance companies shipping lines, airlines) are very weak or non-existent in developing countries. This agreement, therefore, entrenches the existing poverty in the South, resulting in land degradation in search of subsistence survival.

The **TRIPS agreement**, which requires the acceptance of patent rights and the connected payments of royalties to patent owners, has the most serious negative implications for the South, which has only 2% of patents of domestic origin. It will raise the prices of medicines against malaria and HIV in the South. Most damaging for the Southern ecosystems and economies will be the patenting of living organisms, resulting in genetic erosion and royalties that have to be paid for their originally own resources. Natural components of the ecosystem are thus replaced by tradable artificial components that are bought and sold in the market. The farming communities lose their confidence in their proven and customarily acquired ecological methods of restoring and maintaining soil quality and fertility.

A large part of these excesses arises from the global imposition of the Northern values that recognise individual property rights, but not community rights. Africa has developed its own model law for recognising the rights of local communities. But Northern pressure against it is a serious problem. We cannot stop the North from recognising only the individual as having rights. But, please let us have our community rights, at least among ourselves!

The Impact of Current Trade Relationships and Strategies for Improvement Summary

Dr. Fekadu Bekele, Economist, Berlin

Introduction

To understand the genesis of international trade relationships one needs to explore the historical process that gave birth to it.

Before Nations-States here in Europe had taken their first shapes and slowly developed their internal markets, there had existed trade relationships among various countries as means of exchanging different products which could not be produced by each and individual country.

The emergence of nations-states here in Europe had great impacts in shaping international trade relationships. With their emergence we had for the first time the development of national economy, which was gaining momentum and was actively supported and shaped by the respective governments. The European Nation-States mostly represented by the Monarchs had followed two strategies of developing and strengthening the national economy. From within they had actively supported the development of the home market through various mechanisms, especially by supporting the active forces. They had allocated cheap credits and induced manufactured activities while at the same time breaking all the barriers which hindered hitherto the development of manufactures. They began destroying all the tariff barriers installed by the small feudal lords hindering the free movements of goods, labour and capital. Secondly they engaged themselves in developing infrastructure activities and cities without which a coherent national economy could not be materialised.

Africa's Position in the World Trade

In the last 5 decades many African countries have been practising various programs and policies as prescribed by the World Bank, International Monetary Fund and other well known international experts. These programs are:

- 1) the so-called import-substitution Industrialisation policy with the aim of modernising the African economy by taking selected measures.
- 2) The second policy is the Basic Needs Approach program which was adopted in the beginning of the 70s to equip Africa with the necessary instruments, like sanitation and medicine, to expand elementary schools, and other related basic needs which are aimed to eradicate poverty,
- 3) the Green Revolution program to make Africa self-sufficient in food.
- 4) the so-called structural adjustment program (SAP) which is aimed at institutional reforms and eradicating bottlenecks which block market economy instruments,
- 5) the millennium UN program with the aim of eradicating poverty from the African soil which will be completed by the year 2015.

All the above programs, policies and agreements could not bring the necessary transformation of the African economy as projected. As studies show, while the industrial and the agricultural sector are disintegrating, the service sector is flourishing, without any real economic foundation. All in all the economic condition of most African countries is in deep structural crises, and cannot be any more solved by simple neo-liberal model as it has been prescribed by the two sister organisations, the IMF and the World Bank in the last 5 decades.

Strategies to improve trade relations and ways to increase exports

Under these bleak circumstances, is there a workable strategy which improves the position of Africa on the world trade and brings economic development from within? We must discuss certain issues which are proposed by the different groups who are concerned with the economic crises of Africa.

To the groups who are still vehemently propagating the idea of neo-liberalism, there is no way out of free trade. According to this school of thought, privatisation, deregulation, liberalisation, diminishing the role of the state and devaluation etc, are still the only remedies which pave the way to a genuine market economy. The ideologists of neo-liberalism if they are asked why the market economic policies of the IMF and the World Bank did not work, their answer is: not because the policies did not work, firstly, they were not applied well, secondly, still governments control the major sectors of the economy. They say if these two obstacles are removed, the market economic policies of the IMF induce the necessary economic growth. The problem of these groups is that they could not realise the intricate nature of the present economic set-up and the dominant role of the multinational companies in dictating even the economies of the industrialised west.

What strategy needs to be applied to change the economic order hindering the natural developments of many Third World Countries? Some groups are working with the World Bank and their respective governments in the struggle for a just world, though they are not far away

from neo-liberalism in many respects. I do not like to mention here the diverse international meetings held by different groups in order to remain concerned with the African endemic economic crises. The African crises become more of a world affair than internal, and many groups of diverse ideologies and governments have come to the conclusion that African governments could not solve the existing economic and social order by themselves. Hence we have to prescribe them more of the neo-liberal medicine so that market economy functions at the end. This is a tacit agreement by all non-governmental, governmental organisations and international organisations. Even African governments have fully accepted the ideology of neo-liberalism, though neo-liberalism has destroyed the social reproduction base of the African society. NEPAD is a vivid example how African leaders have shut their eyes to the existing realities of the continent, and do not realize that free trade cannot be a solution to the overwhelming crises of the continent.

All these suggestions remain simple ideas as long as one is not able to analyse the problem of the world market from a different perspective. If we talk of a just world and fair trade, the question why and what for must be answered. In this case there is the problem of ideology. That means, though market economy has become a natural order in every society, the point is what kind of a market structure each nation could create so that technologically based economic development is possible. I say market economy has become a natural order that in every country there must be a division of labour, some produce, some are employers, and some buy the products and sell them again to the consumers. Production, distribution and exchange are the natural order of any nation, and market economy cannot function without these preconditions. From this perspective if we look at the economies of many African countries there is a problem of ordering the division of labour so that production, distribution and exchange function properly. The internal organisation of the market structures must be changed. From outside African countries could not rely any more on few raw materials and agricultural products to sustain as nation states. It is a great crime against the natural order of humanity that certain nations remain permanent producers and suppliers of raw materials where as few nations dominate the science and the technological world. Before I go into detail let me mention some important issues concerning the world market situation at present time.

Today we witness that the world market cannot function like this. The global economic order is out of control. There is a systemic economic and financial crisis which dictates the lives of so many people and which tightens the hands of many governments. There is a huge gap between real capital and financial investments. The financial market which is overwhelmed by different bond systems and structures, and which is completely detached from the physical economy strangulates the world economy never seen before. In the face of this reality, the dominance of neo-liberalism and the global players which are out of reality and revolving within their own circle for the sake of maximisation of profits, African governments remain aloof or incapable of bringing substantial changes in their society. In this case before one talks about a just world, one should study the inherent contradictions of the world economy and the ideological mechanism which it has arrested the world economy, in order to come to a workable solution. In other words without changing the economic dominance of neo-liberalism and without gaining control of the world market

by the respective governments, which is more welfare oriented, there is no solution to the present deepening African economic crises.

In order to take part into the world trade and increase one's own share each country should formulate its own priorities. I take Ethiopia as an example. Ethiopia cannot any more rely on the export of coffee to bring a sustainable economic development. As long as Ethiopia is not in a position to process coffee and pack and send it, the production and export of raw coffee is meaningless. Without the production of value added any country cannot develop its economy coherently and strategically. Since coffee cartels and western governments block our efforts of processing coffee, we must make special arrangements with those countries, like the republic of China, which support our real development effort. Beside this we must diversify our export products and make bilateral agreements with certain governments. We must try to exploit the nearby markets by exporting dairy products, vegetables and others with which we could easily compete with the EU products, which are contaminated by chemicals and other health affecting substances. If we make the necessary organisational and

marketing arrangements we will have a decisive share in the nearby markets. With this in mind, we must make a long term bilateral agreements by making special deals with certain governments in order to get machines at the exchange of agricultural products. We can get real economic development in the future if we break ourselves from the neo-liberal thinking and from the belief that Western governments and their representatives help our efforts of genuine economic development.

In this case the effort made by the Ethiopian government to become membership of the WTO is a useless attempt which completely misses the realities on the ground. The government should have known that its market economic policies of the last 14 years and its opening door politics to the international community, and the diverse meetings in our capital city which do not have any scientific bases could not bring any tangible changes to the Ethiopian people. With more neo-liberalism, more international meetings and aid, the Ethiopian economy is getting worse every day. The way out of this dilemma is following a strict inward looking economic development strategy which is based on science and technology.

Scientific Collaboration with Ethiopia Summary

Professor Dr. Kurt Peters, Humboldt Universität Berlin

Science, in the era of globalisation is highly impacted by the need for co-operation to improve the process of general knowledge exchange leading to the development of policies based on intercultural understanding. Scientific collaboration is not a one-way road but a broad multi-flow relation that allow developing human abilities, to build the capacity of improving the flow of knowledge.

Collaboration between Germany and Ethiopia has its sector of preferences.

This effort is primarily focused on the strategic goals of

- reinforce democracy through the improvement of livelihoods,
- maintain fair and sustainable economic relation and environments
- Secure peace and human rights
- Drive for equity, contribute to the UN-Millennium Goals

Currently Agricultural Education and Research projects are considered to be top priorities, while areas such as health, law and human sciences are also equally important. Sectors such as Manufacturing & processing, civil engineering are in second and third level of preferences.

Preference setting is extremely complex. It needs assessment by all members of the society and should be assisted by congruence analysis and economic planning models. Agriculture is a dominant sector in the Ethiopian economy accounting for an average of 45 % of the GDP, an estimated 85 % of labour opportunities and 75 % of total export earnings primarily through sales of coffee and livestock products.

The Ethiopian agriculture provides a large diversity in production conditions and products. A large improvement needs to be implemented in agricultural productivity, and infrastructure layout for rural development enhanced with the application of new and innovative tech-

niques. It is also equally important to equip and strengthen the human resource (farmer, extension staff, field scientist) with the tools of modern technology and vocational education.

Scientific challenges in Ethiopian Agriculture

Conclusions Workshop "Build Africa's institutional and scientific capacity"

(BASIC-Workshop, IRA, Sept. 2004, Addis Ababa)

1. Globalisation and economic competition increases demand for knowledge driven economic development.
2. Endogenous research and development capacity to focus on specific situation for which foreign technologies and policies are not well adapted.
3. Education and scientific development should not be limited to "the agricultural-only model" but needs to address all aspects of rural development at all levels.
4. The effectiveness of agricultural scientists needs multidisciplinary approaches through the Combining of production – ecology – & economic policies.
5. Implementation action need a focus on needs and problems with emphasis on
Poverty reduction, Sustainable natural resource management & overall rural development

There are significant differences in scientific challenges between Ethiopian and European Agriculture. European agriculture is highly specialised and integrated in global market while agriculture in Ethiopia is diversified with growing market integration and requires productivity growth. Problems facing Ethiopian agriculture are related to integrated rural development processes and specific institutional problems. This is where international scientific collaboration comes to play a great role to find a solution to these challenges. However, problems of the agricultural and rural sectors are related to the realities in society. Problems related to education and research

tends to resonate differently depending on need-based dynamics.

How do we secure the interests of the developing countries?

A careful assessment of appropriateness of Education, Research and Development is of utmost importance.

Some German institutions supporting scientific collaboration are summarised in Tab. 1

| Support institutions | Individ. People | Research projects | Research programs |
|--|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| KAAD: 80 scholarships in agric. (10 yrs) Ethiopia focus | + | | |
| DAAD: largest scholarship provider, more than 35 Doc. Students at LGF | + | | + |
| DFG/BMZ: one project on biodiversity, one project LGF/Alemaya Agr. Univ. | | + | + |

The DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) is one of the largest promoter international academic and scientific exchanges of students and faculties.

DAAD five strategic program goals:

1. Scholarships for foreigners to promote young elites to gain future leaders.

2. Scholarship for Germans to promote young scientists in research abroad..
3. Promotion of German studies and German language.
4. Educational co-operation with developing countries.

DAAD program with relevance for Ethiopia:

- postgraduate study programs in development related areas
- bilateral scientist exchange & stipends for special study projects
- research grants for doctoral students and young scientists
- university partnerships & group excursion of foreign students
- DAAD-Leibnitz, Helmholtz-DAAD stipends for doctorals & post doctorals

DAAD own a great deal of experiences through its several categories of co-operation programs, for example foreign students come to Germany and return after completing their studies, can take new ideas and approach into their home country. They act as efficient agent for technology transfer and contribute advantage to improve socio-cultural understanding.

Use and Conservation of Wild Coffee and its Natural Habitat, the Montane Moist Forests in Ethiopia

Till Stellmacher

Introduction

In contrast to other coffee producing countries, Ethiopia's coffee production is dominated by small-holder agriculture, contributing with more than 90 percent to the total harvest. Another particularity is the fact that the montane moist forests of South-western Ethiopia are world-wide origin of the *coffea arabica* gene-pool. Utilisation of so-called 'forest coffee' is predominantly undertaken in traditional use systems, in which local communities gather cherries directly from naturally regenerating coffee populations in the forests. The intensity of human intervention reaches from simply annual harvesting, to clearing the undergrowth and pruning up to transplanting the coffee shrubs. These traditional forest resource use reflect land use pattern from Emperor Haile Selassie's period through the present regime in a system of tolerated illegality. More detailed examination has revealed a variety of interdependent historical, political, and institutional factors as major underlying causes for rapid loss of forest and forest coffee resources in Ethiopia.

Preliminary research results

Five clusters of determinants have been identified to provide underlying influence on utilisation and conservation of 'forest' *coffea arabica* and its habitat, the montane moist forest.

Traditional community-based institutions and forest resources property rights

Utilisation of forest coffee and other forest products in Bonga Forest/Kafa Zone and Hareenna Forest/Bale Zone is still influenced by traditional community-based institutions. Two groups of community-based institutions are of specific importance, namely 'juridical' institutions, such as the 'elders', which informally provide rules and regulations shaping local resource utilisation, guarantee informal property use rights and serve as conflict solution bodies; and pure 'utilisation' institutions, such as neighbourhood working groups (locally named *dschiga* or *daadoo*), particularly designed for resource utilisation, e.g. harvesting of forest coffee.

Forest areas in both research sites are almost entirely divided into plots which are informally 'owned' by local peasants. Appropriation predominantly takes place by patrilinear inheritance in Hareenna Forest/Bale Zone. Utilisation of forest coffee and the putting up of beehives is mainly dominated by exclusive individual ownership rights. Traditional forest land property ownership were tolerated by governmental bodies & partly even supported by local *kebele institutions*. In Bonga Forest traditional individual forest property rights are to a great extent replaced by a common property regime. The use of most forest products is organised collectively and exercised by a newly built up "Forest Users Society", which is an integrated part of NGO-driven IPFM project. This crucial change of forest utilisation rights creates certain groups of 'winners' or 'losers' and has manifold impacts on socio-economic power structures within communities.

Governmental rules, regulations and organisational structures regarding forests conservation and management

Conservation of primary forests in general and forest coffee conservation in particular are low priority issues in

Ethiopia. Forest resource management is rather equated with agro-forestry, and scarce governmental budgets are foremost spent on intensification of agriculture, including expansion of investors' coffee plantations within primary forest areas. Nevertheless, a set of governmental bodies more or less directly appointed to the issue of forest resource management and conservation are in existence on different administrative levels.

In sum, governmental institutions are in a status of frequent and inconsistent change, drastic financial and personnel shortage, suffer from confusion about responsibilities, a lack of linkages between decision-makers, as well as insufficient consultation and involvement of the local forest user communities.

The historical background

Various policies - such as land reform based on socialist ideology, planned economy, administrative reorganisation or resettlement and villagization programmes - were implemented, which have had tremendous influences on local forest resource utilisation schemes. At the present time, legacies of these historical events still remain and keep exerting on nowadays forest utilisation, either directly by determining political, social, cultural, ethnical or economical aspects ('path dependency') or indirectly by affecting attitudes and perceptions ('collective memory') of peasants, governmental staff, merchants and other stakeholders.

Commercialisation of forest products

Montane moist forests of South-western and Southern Ethiopia comprise a number of valuable goods, which are commercially used or at least have a high potential in this regard. This research project mainly focuses on

commercialisation of "Non-timber forest products" (NTFPs), while forest coffee acts as a 'flagship product'. Conventional markets for forest products comprise selling on local markets. Innovative marketing approaches comprise the development of co-operative mechanisms (e.g. recently established "Kaffa Forest Coffee Co-operative Union") and the creation of niche market (e.g. German coffee trader Amber Foundation/Amber Co-operation).

Forest resource management projects initiated by foreign donors and NGOs

Currently, five 'Participatory Forest Management' projects are conducted throughout Ethiopia. This research particularly evaluates chances and limitations of the NGO driven "Integrated Participatory Forest Management Project" located in Bonga Forest/Kafa Zone. Its underlying inspiration is to "harmonise rights of the communities to use and develop the forest together with the government's mission of protecting natural resources". The core initiative is the establishment of a "Forest User Society" which gains governmentally authorised and exclusive use rights over a particular forest area and is bound by a Forest Management Plan, developed - under NGO-mediation - in negotiations between representatives of local governmental bodies and community-initiated institutions. Nevertheless, difficulties in building up coherent local level organisational structures became obvious and evidence turned out that decisions making processes in so-called participatory projects tend to represent largely local elite's views and interests. This is likely to create long term conflicts. The theoretical notion of 'participation' has to be critically readjusted when applied in the traditional rural society of Ethiopia.

Bio-Piracy

Tewolde Berhan Gebre Egziabher, Director General, Environmental Protection Authority, Addis Ababa

Since the beginning of human culture, knowledge has moved freely from person to person within a given local community and across local communities – subject, of course, to overcoming language barriers.

This knowledge has been transferred thus in the form of ideas, or recounting of facts or events through the word of mouth, or in writing. It has also been embodied in the way we shape and use the things around us, both living and non-living; for example, domesticating and breeding cattle or wheat, shaping stone, or reconstituting iron ore into a knife.

The ingenuity in reconstituting material and/or recombining it into what we have come to call machines became patentable for the first time in Venice in the 16th century. The generation of knowledge, e.g. finding out that 2 atoms of hydrogen combining with 1 atom of oxygen to make up 1 molecule of water was designated as a discovery and not patentable.

Early in the 19th century, the British government introduced breeders' right to support the individual innovators who produced new and in some way desirable crop varieties and animal breeds. This right allows others to use that variety for breeding purposes.

When originally conceived, breeders' right was to apply to new varieties. It is, in theory, still supposed to apply to new varieties only.

But, varieties taken from farming communities in other parts of the world are registered by patent offices as new varieties. For example, a company called "The Tef Company of America" took a farmers' variety of teff from north-eastern Ethiopia and applied for a breeders' right protection in the United States of America, and it was granted. This is an example of bio-piracy.

In the late 1980s, the United States of America allowed the patenting of the use of micro-organisms for cleaning up oil spills. This soon led to the patenting of all forms of living things. Patenting prohibits the use of these living things for breeding purposes as well.

Europe allows the patenting of plants and animals only if they are genetically engineered. The rationale is that the genes that have been engineered into animals and plants are patented. These genes were taken out of other living things to begin with. Why was a discovery allowed to be patented?

Now, if you plant a genetically engineered, and thus patented, wheat variety, and I plant a non-genetically engineered variety, the wind will blow your pollen grains to my field. Your pollen grains will introduce your patented genes into my varieties of wheat. In the view of Article 34 of TRIPS of the WTO, it is I that have infringed on your patent, although I never 'invited' your patented pollen to come into my field.

Follow me in the following scenarios:

1. Teff is the main cereal crop of Ethiopia. Many farmers' varieties of teff grow well in water-logged soils. You go to a grain market in Ethiopia, where teff is sold for food, and you buy some. You take out the gene that makes the teff tolerate water-logging, and patent it. In my view you would be a bio-pirate.

2. Ethiopia is now not a member of the WTO. Let us assume it becomes a member. Then you could register your patented gene of the Ethiopian farming communities' teff in Ethiopia. That gene would be found naturally occurring in their teff. Let us assume you dare take the farmers to court for infringement of your patent. According to Article 34 of TRIPS, you would be perfectly within your right. According to common sense, TRIPS would then be an instrument of robbery.
3. Let us assume you take a farmers' variety of 6-row barley, which does not grow in Germany, from Ethiopia by buying it in the grain market. Barley cannot withstand water-logging. Let us say that you introduce the teff gene into the 6-row barley through genetic engineering. Your GE barley is planted in Ethiopia. Wind pollination takes its genes into the farmers' fields. Article 34 of TRIPS makes them infringers. They thus lose both their teff and barley crops to you. Are they silly fools that deserve their loss, or are you a bio-pirate more insidious than a colonialist who forces them into new forms of plantation labourers?

Ethiopian, and many other African local communities have been using extracts from the bark of *Prunus africanus* (a tree of montane forests) to treat prostate cancer. You identify the active ingredient. You patent it. You sell back your patented pills to the African local communities at very high prices. Are you a bio-pirate, or are they idiots?

Now, innovation and bio-piracy are entangled into an injustice of folly that will destabilise this unstable world further. I will give you some examples of this insane bio-piracy.

1. Percy Schmeizer, a farmer from Saskatchewan, Canada, was found with his rape seed (canola) fields containing Monsanto's patented GE rape seed genes. His claim that cross pollination contaminated

his non-GE rape seed with Monsanto's patented genes was not disproved. But, the judge found him guilty according to Canadian law based on Article 34 of TRIPS. Would the farmers of Germany or Ethiopia have had a different fate? I do not think so, unless Articles 34 and 21.3(b) of TRIPS are revised.

2. A Pentagon-funded project studied the way African traditional healers treated parasitic diseases. Iwu, a Nigerian, collaborated with the Pentagon. The project found that the traditional medicines, or behaved like, cholesterol and prevented the parasites from establishing in the host. In 1994, the Pentagon patented the whole method of preventing parasites by mimicking cholesterol. Are the African traditional healers infringing on the Pentagon's patent? They have not been taken to court. May be, being the Pentagon, its form of attack will be different. And, for that reason, dare we call the Pentagon a biopirate? Not in this age of counter-terrorism!
3. Since we are celebrating 100 years of diplomatic relations between Germany and Ethiopia, I will conclude with an Ethiopian example. The African soapberry, 'endod' in Amharic, contains saponins. It is a traditional detergent. It also kills molluscs. Dr Aklilu Lemma and his co-workers in Addis Ababa University identified the active ingredient and used endod to kill snails that transmit the bilharzias parasitic worm. They published their results. The zebra mussel in the Great Lakes of North America is, of course, a mollusc. The University of Toledo tested the killing power of endod on the zebra mussel after they had heard a lecture about endod from Dr Aklilu. It worked. The University of Toledo has patented the use of endod to kill the zebra mussel. Is the University of Toledo a bio-pirate or not? Will Ethiopians be infringers or not? I leave you to figure it out!

Beratung für Stadtentwicklung in Tigray

Wolfgang R. Burkhardt

Im Mai 2003 wurde vom Tigray Region Urban Development Office (TRUDO) beim Centrum für Internationale Migration und Entwicklung (CIM) eine Integrierte Fachkraft (IF) als Berater für Stadtentwicklung in Tigray angefordert. Im Frühjahr 2004 konnte eine entsprechende Vermittlung realisiert werden, die dann zu einem Arbeitsvertrag zwischen TRUDO und der IF sowie der Arbeitsaufnahme in Mekelle im Juni 2004 führte.

Die Voraussetzungen

Nach den Erfahrungen des Kaiserreichs und des sozialistischen DERG-Regimes ist in Äthiopien zunächst von einer zentralistischen Verwaltungstradition auszugehen. Der Grundsatz der Dezentralisierung hat zwar in die moderne äthiopische Verfassung Eingang gefunden, die Verwirklichung ist aber jedenfalls nicht vollständig vollzogen. Der politische Wille dafür ist glaubhaft vorhanden. Wichtige gesetzliche Voraussetzungen, wie z. B. eine Gemeindeordnung in Tigray (City Proclamation), mit der die Selbstverwaltungsrechte auf kommunaler Ebene gestärkt und präzisiert werden, liegen bereits vor. Für gravierende Schwierigkeiten wie die unzureichende

Qualifizierung und Bezahlung im öffentlichen Dienst konnte noch keine Lösung gefunden werden.

Der Aufbau von Kapazitäten für räumliche Stadtentwicklungsplanung als Fachplanung und als integraler Bestandteil der kommunalen Selbstverwaltung kann als ein wesentlicher Bestandteil für die Lösung von wichtigen Entwicklungsaufgaben in den schnell wachsenden urbanen Zentren Tigrays betrachtet werden.

Das Office

Das Tigray Region Urban Development Office (TRUDO) ist als Landesbehörde für Stadtentwicklung zuständig. Obwohl nach der Einführung einer Gemeindeordnung (City Proclamation) für Tigray im Jahre 2003 die kommunale Selbstverwaltung entsprechend dem Verfassungsgrundsatz der Dezentralisierung bis ins Detail neu geregelt und gestärkt wurde, fehlt es nach wie vor an entsprechenden Regelungen zur Konkretisierung. Es ist eine wesentliche Aufgabe von TRUDO, entsprechende landesgesetzliche Regelungen z.B. im Planungs- und Bauordnungsbereich vorzubereiten, um den Kommunen die Wahrnehmung ihrer verfassungsmäßigen Selbstverwaltungsrechte zu ermöglichen.

Zur Durchführung der dienstlichen Aufgaben verfügt TRUDO nur unzureichend über reguläre Haushaltsmittel. Manchmal fehlt es am Briefporto oder dem Kraftstoff für den Dienstwagen, manchmal kann die Energierechnung nicht rechtzeitig bezahlt werden. Zur Finanzierung wich-

tiger Projekte müssen Fördermittel internationaler Geberorganisationen akquiriert werden.

Im Office steht zwar diverse, insgesamt aber ungenügende, IT-Hardware zur Verfügung und wird auch für Textverarbeitung sowie anspruchsvolle CAD- und GIS-Anwendungen eingesetzt, die Wartung ist jedoch unzulänglich. Eine eigentlich notwendige professionell betreute Vernetzung der vorhandenen Systeme ist nicht vorhanden. Deshalb können die Potentiale nicht ausgeschöpft werden. Häufige Ausfälle und Infizierung durch Computerviren können nicht vermieden werden.

Das Office ist mit vergleichsweise hochqualifiziertem Personal ausgestattet. Mehrere Mitarbeiter haben eine Ausbildung in renommierten Instituten absolviert und/oder sind Inhaber von Abschlüssen internationaler Hochschulen. Demgegenüber ist die Bezahlung schlecht. Der Amtsleiter mit Oxford Master Degree und qualifizierter Berufserfahrung verdient 2.600 ETH Birr (ca. 230 Euro) im Monat, ein Abteilungsleiter, teilweise mit gleichwertiger Qualifikation, wird mit 2.000 ETH Birr (ca. 180 Euro) monatlich vergütet. Demzufolge ist die Fluktuation erheblich. Die Anstellung bei TRUDO wird nicht als Dauerstellung begriffen, sondern als Möglichkeit zur Weiterqualifikation betrachtet, bis sich eine besser bezahlte Chance bietet. Fast alle Kollegen sind genötigt zusätzliche Erwerbsquellen zu erschließen und zu nutzen.

Die Lebensbedingungen

Die Lebensverhältnisse in der prosperierenden Landeshaupt- und Universitätsstadt Mekelle mit derzeit ca. 160.000 Einwohnern können westlichen Ansprüchen genügen, wenn auf besondere kulturelle Höhepunkte oder internationale Presse-Erzeugnisse auch weitgehend verzichtet werden muss. Die Grundversorgung mit Verbrauchsgütern und medizinischer Dienstleistung ist sicher gestellt. Häufig finden auch importierte Waren den Weg nach Mekelle. Täglich zwei Flugverbindungen nach Addis Abeba werden von Ethiopian Airlines relativ zuverlässig bedient. Die Verkehrswege innerhalb der Stadt und die Verbindungen ins Umland sind benutzbar und werden stetig verbessert. Der öffentliche Nahverkehr wird innerhalb der Stadt durch ein System von Minibussen aufrechterhalten. Ein privates Fahrzeug mit Vierrad-antrieb ist jedoch empfehlenswert. Die Versorgung mit Trinkwasser, elektrischer Energie, Telekommunikation und Internetzugang ist besser als landesüblich und kann bei geschicktem Management als hinreichend beurteilt werden. Der Empfang von westlichen TV-Programmen ist über Satellitenempfänger möglich.

Die Aufgaben

Auf der Basis von Vorschlägen des Arbeitgebers wurden acht Projekte für die Zusammenarbeit identifiziert.

1. Tigray Urban Planning Regulation (TUPR)
Vor dem Hintergrund des vorliegenden Entwurfs für ein nationales Planungsgesetz sind regionale Regelungen für Verfahren und Inhalte von städtebaulicher Planung für die urbanen Zentren in Tigray vorzubereiten und zu implementieren. Damit soll für kommunale Stadtplanung in Tigray eine klare und praktikable gesetzliche Grundlage zur Verfügung gestellt werden.
2. Tigray Building Regulation (TBR)
Da bisher weder auf nationaler noch auf regionaler Ebene eine allgemeingültige Bauordnung zur Regelung des Baugenehmigungsverfahrens und grundlegender Qualitäts- und Sicherheitsstandards existiert, soll ein entsprechendes Regelwerk vorbereitet und eingeführt werden. Damit soll den Kommunen

ein besseres Kontrollinstrument für die z. T. rasante Bautätigkeit in die Hand gegeben werden.

3. Tigray Condominium Regulation
Nach dem Vorbild einer auf nationaler Ebene kürzlich erlassenen Condominium Proclamation soll auch im Regionalstaat eine entsprechende Regelung vorbereitet und implementiert werden. Damit sollen nicht nur neue Eigentumsformen für den Wohnungsbau wie auch für Geschäftshäuser ermöglicht werden, sondern auch die Reduzierung des Landverbrauchs im Sinne einer höheren urbanen Verdichtung unterstützt werden.
4. Tigray Cultural Heritage Regulation
Nach entsprechendem Verfassungsauftrag ist es die Aufgabe des Staates auf nationaler aber auch auf regionaler Ebene den Schutz und die Pflege der z. T. bedeutenden Kulturdenkmale sicher zu stellen. Dafür sind entsprechende Verfahren und gesetzliche Regeln zu entwickeln und einzuführen.
5. Tigray Planning Institute
Im Sinne des verfassungsmäßigen Zieles der Dezentralisierung soll künftig ein regionales Planungsinstitut eingerichtet und anstelle des National Urban Planning Instituts (NUPI) mit den Aufgaben der Stadt- und Regionalplanung im Regionalstaat betraut werden.
6. Tigray Region Development Plan
Im Regionalstaat ist gemäß politischem Auftrag unterhalb der Ebene der nationalen Entwicklungsplanung ein regionales Planungssystem zu entwickeln und ein entsprechender regionaler Entwicklungsplan zu konkretisieren.
7. Model Urban Planning: Structure Plans (SP) & Local Development Plans (LDP)
Auf der Grundlage der Tigray Urban Planning Regulation sollen Structure und Local Development Plans als Beispielplanungen für kommunale Stadtentwicklung vorbereitet und im Verfahren begleitet werden.
8. Identification of development projects based on regional and urban planning
Auf der Basis von rechtsgültigen Stadt- und Regionalplanungen sollen entsprechende Entwicklungsprojekte identifiziert und durchgeführt werden.

Im Rahmen der vereinbarten zweijährigen Zusammenarbeit können sicherlich nicht alle Projekte dieser ambitionierten Liste abgeschlossen werden, zumal sie z.T. in permanente Verwaltungsaufgaben münden. Wesentliche Schritte konnten aber bereits vollzogen werden.

Zunächst war es die Aufgabe der IF das Verfahren für Entwurf, Genehmigung und Implementierung für zwei regionale Regelungen zu konzipieren, Tigray Urban Planning Regulation (TUPR) und Tigray Building Regulation (TBR).

Von Juli bis Oktober 2004 hat ein „Study Team“ von TRUDO unter Beteiligung von ca. 8 bis 10 Mitarbeitern und 1 bis 2 externen Rechtsberatern in regelmäßigen wöchentlichen Sitzungen die Entwürfe von TUPR und TBR vorbereitet. Daneben wurde ein Fragebogen auf Englisch und in Tigrinya entwickelt und an die ca. 40 Municipalities in Tigray verschickt. Nach dieser Vorbereitung hat ein Team bestehend aus drei TRUDO-Mitarbeitern incl. IF acht „Sample Cities“ in der Region besucht, um die Entwürfe dort zu beraten. Anschließend wurden in Mekelle noch zwei Workshops unter Beteiligung von Vertretern aller betroffenen Municipalities, von Trägern öffentlicher Belange und vom GTZ-Programm durchgeführt. Auf der Grundlage der gesammelten Anregungen und Bedenken sowie unter Berücksichtigung

weiterer Expertenmeinungen wurden die „Final Drafts“ fertig gestellt.

Mit den vorliegenden beschlussreifen Entwürfen von TUPR und TBR konnte eine wichtige Grundlage für den Kapazitätsaufbau von kommunaler Stadtentwicklung und Bauordnung gelegt werden. Gleichzeitig wurde damit den Verfassungszielen der Dezentralisierung von staatlicher Verwaltung und der Einführung partizipativer Planungsprozesse entsprochen. Nicht zuletzt konnte dem Prozess der Bewusstseinsbildung für eine bürgernahe

Verwaltung in diversen Konsultationen und Workshops Vorschub geleistet werden. Schließlich wurde in der regionalen Verwaltung (TRUDO) die wichtige Erfahrung realisiert, in eigener Verantwortung eine wesentliche Entwicklungsleistung konkretisiert zu haben. Seitens der IF konnten spezifische Kenntnisse und Erfahrungen aus der deutschen Bau- und Planungsverwaltung beigetragen werden, die für diese Ergebnisse unabdingbar sind.

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100 Years of Diplomatic Relations Ethiopia-Germany

Quelle:

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

Berlin, April 21, Ethiopian Embassy - An Exhibition displaying the photographs taken and documents prepared by the team led by German orientalist Enno Littmann, was opened in Berlin on the evening of April 21. The Exhibition, organised by the Humboldt University of Berlin and an association of scholars studying Ethiopia called Orbis Aethiopicus, was opened 99 years after the Littmann team visited what was then called Colonia Eritrea and Ethiopia, culminating in research carried out at Axum. The team was referred to as the German Axum Expedition.

Some one hundred persons attended the opening of the Exhibition, which was preceded by a lecture on Enno Littmann's travels by Professor Stefan Wenig of Berlin. Among those attending the lecture and exhibition were members of the family of Littmann and those of the Mission's photographer, Theodor von Luepke.

The Exhibition was opened with introductory statements made by Professor Walter Raunig of Orbis Aethiopicus and Professor Claudia Naeser of Humboldt University. Professor Raunig spoke of what used to be known as Ethiopia in history, while Professor Naeser described the preparations behind the realization of the Exhibition.

Addressing the gathering, Ethiopian Ambassador Hiruy Amanuel spoke of the importance of widening the circle of persons in Germany interested in Ethiopia be it in the academic, political, business, tourist and economic fields. In relation to Axum, the Ambassador paid tribute to all those who contributed under difficult circumstances to ensure that the Axum Obelisk was returned to Ethiopia.

The Exhibition, which can be seen at the Urania (An der Urania 17, 10787 Berlin), will be open until May 13. In 2006, a conference dedicated to the impact of the German Axum Expedition, will be held in Axum in commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the Journey.

ENA ,Addis Ababa, 4/20/2005 - A 10-day event Ethiopian Week is being conducted in Bavaria, Germany currently, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said. In its statement the ministry said the event organised in connection with the centenary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations between Ethiopia and Germany, aimed at promoting Ethiopia in Germany. According to the ministry, the program which was launched on 15 April 2005 would continue until 24 April 2005.

An exhibition under the title Architecture in Ethiopia was also held in the City Hall of Würzburg on 15 April 2005 as part of the program, the statement said. The exhibi-

tion would remain open to public until 4 May 2005. In addition, a program entitled Ethiopian Evening was carried out on 16 April 2005. Some 1,000 participants including the Mayor of Würzburg City were in attendance at the Event.. Menschen Fur Menschen, a German humanitarian organisation, and the Main Post, a newspaper in Wuerzburg, jointly organised the Event.

ENA, Addis Ababa, 4/8/2005 - The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) said the Braunschweig City of Lower Saxony State, Germany, hosted an event celebrating the 100th year anniversary of Ethio-Germany diplomatic relations. In a statement the ministry said an art exhibition consisting 50 paintings by Giudo Voelkel who recently returned to Frankfurt from Ethiopia was on display. According to the ministry, the event lasted from April 1- 7, 2005 in Braunschweig Cathedral which was built in the 12th century.

A lecture under the theme of Journey through Modern Ethiopia and a musical drama dealing with the legendary story of the journey of Queen of Sheba to Jerusalem has also been staged. Braunschweig Cathedral Dean, Joachim Hempel who had been here in Ethiopia in the 70s and has been leading tourists expeditions to Ethiopia since 1995 has organized the event, the statement said quoting the Ethiopian Embassy in Berlin. The Cathedral under Hempel also supports the German Church School in Addis Ababa, it added.

The ministry said residents of Braunschweig would send a group of physicians to Ethiopia in 2006, and recalled that a similar group led by Dr. Kifle Tondo had undergone cardiac surgery for 16 children in 2004.

Hiruy Amanuel, Ethiopian Ambassador to Germany, visited the exhibition and held discussions with the Mayor of Braunschweig Lnge Kuekelhan and the local Pope Dr. Fredrick Weber. The Ambassador also discussed the current political, economic and education affairs in the country with Ethiopians residing in Germany.

6.4.2005 - An 'Äthiopischer Kulturtag' will be held in Frankfurt on April 9, 2005. Representatives of the organising body, the Abyssinia e.V have disclosed that the event will be carried out at Saalbau Bikuz in the afternoon. It was revealed that events include a children's program, traditional dancing shows, a tombola, and modern and traditional music. There is also a fashion show, and an art exhibition mounted by two artists - Said Mohammed and Yonatan Abraham.

27.3.2005 - The 60 strong youth orchestra of the city of Leipzig is expected in Ethiopia this week to perform with Ethiopian classical pianist Girma Yiflashewa. The musical treat that is sponsored by the German Embassy in Ethiopia/Goethe Institute, includes known classical

pieces as well as Ethiopian compositions. The visit to Ethiopia of the Leipzig youth orchestra is part of the events being carried out in Ethiopia to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Ethiopia and Germany. In February, Ethiopian classical pianist Girma Yifrashewa performed in Leipzig and Berlin with the same orchestra. The Leipzig show was strongly attended, signifying the developing contacts between Leipzig and Addis Ababa - two cities that were twinned last December.

8.3.2005 - Ethiopia Day was marked on March 7 at the Asia-African Institute of Hamburg University as part of the events marking the 100th Anniversary since the establishment of diplomatic relations between Ethiopia and Germany. The meeting was addressed by Ambassador Hiruy Amanuel of Ethiopia who stressed the need for the constituency for Ethiopia in Germany (Ethiopians and Germans who are linked to the country) to engage further in initiatives to boost relations between the two countries in all fields.

The President of Hamburg University, Dr. Jürgen Luethje expressed appreciation for the work done in the research for and publication of *Encyclopedia Aethiopia*. The first volume of this 5 volume work has been published in 2003. The second volume is due in a few months, and it is expected that the entire work would be completed in 2008/09.

The historic work of research work carried out by Hiob Ludolf was highlighted by Professor Dr. Siegbert Uhlig, and other speakers included Dr. Heinrich Scholler (Munich), Dr. Verena Boell (Hamburg), Professor Dr. Stefan Brüne (Hamburg), Berhanu Beyene (Hamburg), Dr. Johannes Launhardt (Hermannsburg).

In addition, there was a reading from a book "Maskal. Das Ende der Regenzeit" by its author Brigitte Beil; the presentation of a film, music and Ethiopian food.

8.3.2005 - The Deutsch-Äthiopischer 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 Gebreegzabher. 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 Weizsäcker, 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 de-

velopment; Hartmut Meyer of the GTZ on German policies regarding bio-safety; Christine v. Weizsäcker, a researcher on innovative co-operation versus old conflicts regarding bio-diversity; 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-Äthiopischer Verein in the future.

8.3.2005 - The 100th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Ethiopia and Germany was marked by the opening of a two week long exhibition at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Berlin. The Opening on the evening of March 7, 2005 was attended by German officials, parliamentarians, businessmen, academicians and Ethiopians residing in the vicinity of Berlin. Describing Ethiopia as an important partner country for Germany, Foreign Affairs State Minister Kerstin Müller said that on the basis of its promising democratisation process, Ethiopia can become a stabilising factor in the region. Ethiopia's Ambassador Hiruy Amanuel stressed the importance of utilising the anniversary to raise the profile of Ethiopia in Germany and drew attention to numerous initiatives underway, including the planned negotiations later in the month for a new three year development aid program.

30.3.2005 - Participants who joined the Coffee Conference and Tour in Ethiopia in late March were reported to be satisfied by their meetings and visits in Ethiopia. The trip which took 14 German coffee experts, journalists and writers to Arsi (Oromiya Region) and the Yirgalem area in Sidamo (Southern Region) as well as Addis Ababa was organised under the banner '100 Years of Friendship, 1000 Years of Coffee', in commemoration of the centenary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Ethiopia and Germany in 1905. The coordinator of the visit, Dr. Hans-Jürgen Langenbahn said that the success of the familiarisation tour had resulted in an invitation extended to five Ethiopian coffee farmers from the Golgocha area of Arsi (Oromiya), to visit Germany in September/October 2005. They will be able to see at first hand the Coffee and Tea Fair in Hamburg to be held in September. It was also revealed that the German media that were part of the visit would present features in the forthcoming weeks and months.

A member of the delegation who has known Ethiopia for many decades through coffee, Friedrich Wilhelm Graf von der Recke-Volmerstein, was among the visiting group. He said that he was pleased with infrastructural developments he had witnessed during this particular visit. It is believed that the tour has contributed to developing links between coffee businessmen in the two countries to promote speciality Ethiopian coffee in the German market.

News

Ethiopia in chaos as police kill 22 during protests, Meera Selva, Africa Corr., 09 June 2005

Addis Ababa is in a state of emergency after Ethiopian police killed 22 and arrested 600 anti-government demonstrators in clashes that threaten to destroy one of Africa's most stable countries. Gunfire echoed across the city yesterday when protesters clashed with security

forces who had been ordered to disband all protests and demonstrations.

After several hours of fighting, schools, churches and offices decided to send their staff home and close their doors. Traders at the Mercato, Africa's biggest market, decided to close during business hours as the city fell apart. Taxi drivers went on strike, sending text messages urging each other to switch off their engines and stay at home. The government tried to organise bus services but with no success...

Three major political parties reach agreement to peacefully conclude electoral process, Addis Ababa (ENA) 10.6.05

AU Welcomes signing of joint declaration by EPRDF, CUD, UEDF Three political parties have reached agreement yesterday to peacefully conclude the May 15 national elections pursuant of public interest, law and constitutional system.

The United Ethiopian Democratic Forces (UEDF), the Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD) and the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) have reached agreement yesterday to wrap up the electoral process in a legal and peaceful manner. In addition to representatives of the parties, Chairman of the National Electoral Board of Ethiopia (NEBE), Kemal Bedri and representatives of ambassadors vowed in the presence of representatives of the UN, AU and ambassadors to do their level best towards the implementation of the agreement.

The signatories have re-asserted their condemnation of all acts of violence or incitement to violence and agree to make all possible efforts to prevent such violence or incitement to violence, to exercise restraint, and seek resolution of all issues through legal and peaceful means only. They also declared their commitment to the decision making procedures established by the proclamation on electoral law for deciding upon complaints of election irregularities and to abide by them. The signatories have accepted the legal authority of the National Electoral Board of Ethiopia and the courts in those procedures and commit to abide by the decisions they make on the basis of the authority invested in them by the laws of the country, and refrain from all acts intended to subvert such decisions, without prejudice to their constitutional rights.

The three parties recognize the positive role being played by the Joint Political Party Forum in resolving disputes between the parties in a consensual manner and in enhancing the transparency of the process. They also noted the decision of the NEBE to review and investigate the 299 complaints of electoral irregularities that have been submitted by political parties. Meanwhile, the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union, Alpha Omar Konare, welcomes the signing yesterday of a Joint Declaration on the National Electoral Board of Ethiopia (NEBE) complaints review and investigation process by three political parties.

The Joint Declaration was signed at the office of the NEBE by the Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD), the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) and the United Ethiopian Democratic Forces (UEDF) yesterday 10 June 2005.

In a communiqué it issued later yesterday the Chairperson of the Commission commends the parties for having reaffirmed their commitment to the successful and peaceful conclusion of the electoral process, in a manner that fully respect the wishes of the people, the rule of

law and constitutional process of the country. The Chairperson further commends the parties for their condemnation of all acts of violence or incitement to violence and their commitment to make all possible efforts to prevent the recurrence of violence. The Chairperson of the Commission reaffirms AU's commitment to assist the parties in their efforts and to provide all necessary support for the implementation of the Joint Declaration, so as to ensure the early peaceful and transparent completion of the electoral process.

Ethiopian Opposition Leaders Arrested

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP) -- Jun 11, 7:00 AM EDT

Two Ethiopian opposition leaders were placed under arrest Saturday, a day after the ruling party agreed to work with its foes to end violent protests that have left 29 dead. The leader of the Coalition for Unity and Democracy, Hailu Shawel, and a senior official in the party, Lidetu Ayalew, have not been allowed to leave their homes by police, said coalition vice chairman Berhanu Nega. "Nobody can go in and nobody can leave," said Berhanu. "We are extremely concerned about what is going to happen next."

Tim Clarke, the European Commission chief in Ethiopia, who helped negotiate the agreement between the parties, was trying to secure the leaders' release. Journalists who went to Hailu's home to check reports he was under house arrest were beaten by police using fists and clubs.

50 000 Fuel Saving Stoves – Walta, News Agency 21.4.2005

The German Agency for Technical Co-operation (GTZ) disclosed that it has distributed 50,000 fuel-saving stoves worth 535,000 USD with a view to preventing deforestation in Tigray state, northern Ethiopia. The Mekele Branch Manager of Sustainable Development Utilisation Project with GTZ, Samson Atsbeha said the distribution of the stoves was part of the two-year project launched by GTZ to prevent forest destruction in the state. He said GTZ supplies the stoves at low price in co-operation with Shell Foundation, adding that training has also been given to stove manufacturers and pertinent governmental sector offices. The stoves, which would enable to bake injera and stew at the same time, would additionally help in mitigating and preventing smoke that would pose danger to personal health. The Manager said 6,000 birr and training has been offered to each of the 54 stove manufacturers who have been supplying over 4,000 stoves in 40 towns of the state.

Internet-Zugang über 10 000 km Glasfaser-Netzwerk –The Daily Monitor, Addis, 6. April 2005

Äthiopien hat damit begonnen, eine Investition von mehreren Millionen USD in ein Glasfaser-Netzwerk zu tätigen, das Äthiopien mit den unterseeischen Kabeln im benachbarten Djibouti verbinden wird. Premierminister Meles Zenawi erklärte, dass Äthiopien mit dem Verlegen von 10.000 km Glasfasern im ganzen Land begonnen hat. "Wir haben nun angefangen, 10.000 km Glasfaserkabel im ganzen Land zu verlegen und werden diese mit den unterseeischen Kabeln in Djibouti verbinden, auch mit Hilfe von Glasfasern", sagte Meles. Das Glasfaser-Netzwerk mit Djibouti wird erwartungsgemäß 2007/2008 in Betrieb gehen. Der Premierminister erklärte auch, dass ICT ein entscheidendes Mittel zur Bekämpfung der Armut in Ländern wie Äthiopien ist, wo die Mehrheit der

ungefähr 70 Millionen Einwohner unter der Armutsgrenze lebt (mit weniger als einem USD pro Tag). Zurzeit benutzen nicht mehr als 200.000 Personen im Land den Handy Internet Service. Wie auch immer, Premierminister Meles Zenawi sagte den versammelten ICT Experten, dass sein Land sich auf die Promotion von ICT konzentrieren wird, um die Armut zu bekämpfen. Meles wies auch darauf hin, dass es Pläne gibt, einen Universal-Zugang und Internet-Verbindung für alle zehn tausende von ländlichen Gemeinden im Land in den nächsten zwei bis drei Jahren zu garantieren.

Ethiopian Tourism Professional Association launched – Walta News Agency, 30.3.2005

The Ethiopian Tourism Professionals Association has officially been launched at a time when the sector is given high priority by the government. Speaking at the launching of the association, Ethiopian Tourism Commissioner, Yusuf Abdullahi Sukkar said the association was formed at an opportune time when tourism in Ethiopia has at long last been accorded an enhanced profile commensurate with its potential. He said the adoption of the new Tourism Paradigm by the government, which places tourism at the centre of its poverty reduction strategy, and in alignment with the Millennium Development Goals, among others, was indicative of the government commitment to placing tourism high on agenda. Yusuf said the commission had set up a vision for Ethiopia (Vision 2020), defined its mission, formulated a tourism policy and drawn up a strategic plan and management for tourism with the aim of making Ethiopia one of the top ten-tourism destinations in Africa. He also called on the association and its members to contribute to the expansion of the frontiers of knowledge in the field of tourism, to popularise tourism in Ethiopia and to help introduce and maintain professionalism in the sector, which he said were necessary ingredients for the rapid, sustainable and equitable development that Ethiopia needs. Speaking on his part, the Tourism Professionals Association President, Dr. Tewdros Atlabachew said the formation of the association would herald the significance of tourism profession in Ethiopia, which in the past was neglected and forgotten. He said contributing to the advancement of tourism in Ethiopia, creating awareness of tourism amongst the concerned and the peoples of Ethiopia as well as contributing to the conservation and sustainable utilisation of tourism resources, among others constitute the objectives of the association.

Professor Richard Pankrust presented a paper on the unique place of Ethiopia in the history of the world beginning from the discovery of Lucy (Dinkinesh) all the way to the 20th century.

Sofumer Höhle soll Weltkulturerbe werden

- Sofumer, 9.3.2005 (WIC)

Das Tourismusamt des Bundesstaates Oromia gab bekannt, dass Anstrengungen unternommen wurden, um die Sofumar Höhle als Weltkulturerbe registrieren zu lassen bei der UNESCO. Bei einer Besprechung mit einer Delegation geleitet vom Minister für Erziehung, Genet Zewidie, sagte Wario Kuno (Abteilungsleiter des Amtes), dass die Höhle eine einzigartige Besonderheit hat, da der Fluss Woyib auf einer Länge von 1,2 km durch sie hindurch fließt. Er sagte auch, dass die Höhle mit ihren 15,5 km Länge 42 verschiedene Eingänge besitzt. Gemäß den Äußerungen des Abteilungsleiters strebt der Bundesstaat den Bau von Infrastruktur, auch

Elektrizität und Straßen an, mit der Absicht, die Höhle besser zugänglich für Touristen zu machen.

Reunion dinner of former GDF diplomats and experts, 17.4.2005

Former diplomats, professors and instructors, development and commercial officials from eastern Germany (the former German Democratic Republic) had a first-time reunion in Berlin on April 16. This is the first time since the collapse of the Berlin Wall and the reunification of Germany, that citizens of the former GDR associated with Ethiopia have held a reunion. About 250 people were gathered at the Quality Hotel in Berlin to dine together through the initiative of Mrs. Heide-Marie Mauersberger, wife of one of the three Ambassadors that the former GDR posted to Ethiopia. The reunion was attended by Ethiopian Ambassador Hiruy Amanuel who greeted all present and expressed appreciation for their contribution in various fields of development. He encouraged those present to continue their association with Ethiopia through the establishment of a mechanism that would allow enable them to keep in touch with each other and to develop new links with Ethiopia.

ISD-experts visit Germany, 14.4.2005

Four persons - teachers and environmental education programmers - working with the Institute of Sustainable Development (ISD), a private institution in Ethiopia, are on a three week working visit to Germany. Fasil Gebreyes, Teklewoin Gabremedhin, Tafach Meaza, and Hailu Araya called on the Ethiopian Embassy in Berlin in the presence of Institute Director Sue Edwards, and Katja Geissler of the Evangelical Academy of the Lutheran Church. The group is in Germany to learn from experiences here in getting schools and communities engaged in the protection of the environment.

Group members disclosed that environment clubs that were launched in some schools in Ethiopia, had managed to involve farming communities in initiatives to protect the local environment. They said that 21 schools in all regions of Ethiopia had launched such programs under the auspices of the ISD, and had worked to link environment education with culture. Experiences shared during their stay at the embassy included those from Holleta in Oromia Region, and in Axum, Tigray Region. During their visit to institutions in Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt and Brandenburg, an effort will be made to link up schools in the three regions with schools in Ethiopia.

Goethe-Prize for Samuel Assefa, 22.3.2005

The Ethiopian thinker, Dr. Samuel Assefa of Addis Ababa University was awarded the prestigious Goethe Prize in Weimar, the city where Goethe spent most of his life in the eastern part of Germany. The ceremony was attended by the President of the Goethe Institute Jutta Limbach and the Prime Minister of the Federal State of Thuringia where Weimar is located. The Ethiopian Ambassador to Germany, Hiruy Amanuel, was present at the ceremony. Dr. Samuel was honoured for his contribution to international cultural relations and his work with the German language. It is to be recalled that he spent some of his early years in Germany as the son of Ambassador Assefa Lemma, who served in Bonn on two occasions during the reign of Emperor Haile Sellassie. This is the first time an Ethiopian receives this prize, and the second time for an African. On this occasion, four writers and musicians from the USA, Ukraine, Japan and

Australia also received the prize. The contributions of Dr. Samuel were announced to the meeting by the German Ambassador to Ethiopia Dr. Helga Graf von Strachwitz. On the occasion speakers made reference to the 100th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Ethiopia and Germany being marked this year. In this connection it is expected that the President of the Goethe Institute would visit Ethiopia later in the year.

Licht für tausend Hütten - Kechemober erstes Solardorf in Äthiopien, 11.5.2005, ECOreporter.de:

Solarstrom ist eine saubere Energie und das können die Bewohner des Dorfes Kechemober in Äthiopien jetzt sehen und riechen. Bislang wurden die Hütten in einer der ärmsten Regionen des Landes am Horn von Afrika mit Petroleumlampen beleuchtet, deren ätzender Rauch die Atemwege der Insassen stark beeinträchtigte. Die Freiburger Stiftung Solarenergie e.V. konnte nun zumindest in einem ersten Dorf für Abhilfe schaffen. Finanziert aus Spenden installierte die Stiftung kürzlich mit Hilfe von einheimischen Handwerkern und Technikern 28 Solarsysteme für die Tukuls genannten Wohnhütten und zudem zwei Solaranlagen für Schulen.

Das sei das größte vernetzte Solarprojekt in diesem Land, sagt Harald Schützeichel, Vorstand der Stiftung Solarenergie, der die Installation koordinierte. Die Stif-

tung stellt die Solarsysteme als Starthilfe kostenlos zur Verfügung, die Äthiopier zahlen mittels eines Prepayment-Systems statt für das Petroleum nun den Solarstrom. Aus dem Ertrag werden die kleinen Solaranlagen gewartet, diese Arbeit übernimmt ein örtlicher Elektroinstallateur. Somit ist das Projekt zugleich eine Starthilfe für das lokale Handwerk.

Es wird früh dunkel im sonnigen Äthiopien, schon um 18 Uhr. Der in Batterien gespeicherte Strom kann nun auch dazu verwendet werden, den Abendunterricht in den Schulen zu verbessern. So können auch Kinder, die tagsüber auf den Feldern arbeiten müssen, eine Schulbildung erhalten. Die Nachricht vom sauberen Licht verbreitete sich in Windeseile in der Region 140 Kilometer nördlich von Addis Ababa. Es gibt viele Wünsche, bei den nächsten Solarsystemen dabei sein zu wollen. Die Stiftung hofft, ab 2006 rund 1000 weitere Hütten und Schulen auszurüsten, schon im September werden die Projektleiter erneut nach Äthiopien abreisen, um die technische Zuverlässigkeit der Systeme zu überprüfen und die Ergebnisse der Nutzung auszuwerten.

Das Projekt wird von Spendern der Stiftung Solarenergie e.V. finanziert, ein Aufruf an die boomende Branche, einen Teil des Geschäftserlöses für die humanitäre Hilfe zu spenden, hat Wirkung erzielt. Die technische Konzeption erstellte die Schweizer Firma AS Engineering AG in Bern in ehrenamtlich.

Heinz Siebold

Links

<http://www.gtz.de/de/publikationen/5319.htm>

GTZ - Zeitschrift "Akzente" - 1/2005: Addis Ababa Merkat - 4/2004: Low Cost Housing - 2/2004: Kaffee Allianz

http://www.ded.de/cipp/ded/lib/all/lob/return_download.ticket_g_u_e_s_t/bid,856/no_mime_type,0/~DEDBrief_05_1_Bildung_und_Ausbildung.pdf

S. 38 / 39: Unterstützung non-formaler Berufsbildungsmaßnahmen in Äthiopien (Christian Caspar)

<http://www.alemayau.edu.et/>
Alemaya University

<http://www.mu.edu.et/muUniversity.html>
Mekelle University

<http://www.home.no/dufns/news.html>
Debu University Awassa

http://www.ded.de/cipp/ded/custom/pub/content_lang_1/ticket_g_u_e_s_t/oid,127
DED-Briefe in PDF

<http://www.ethpress.gov.et/Herald/articleFront.asp>
Ethiopian Herald mit verschiedenen Schwerpunkten:

<http://www.ethpress.gov.et/Herald/article.asp?categoryid=45&categoryName=Focus+on+Woman>
Focus on Women

<http://www.ethpress.gov.et/Herald/articlesport.asp?categoryid=40&categoryName=Herald+Sport>
Sport etc.

Leichtathletik

<http://www.leichtathletik.de/>

Auf der Leichtathletik-Seite sind alle nationalen und internationalen Wettkampfergebnisse enthalten, auf denen man auch nach Nationalität suchen kann.

(Startseite/oben rechts den „Suche“-Botton, Schlagwort ETH oder Äthiopien. Ergebnisse garantiert.)

Da äthiopische Männer und Frauen bei den meisten großen Marathons starten und meistens unter den ersten 10 Plätzen vertreten sind, ist es eine gute Werbung fürs Land. Ich weiß aus eigener läuferischer Erfahrung, dass das Thema Laufen in der Öffentlichkeit immer mehr ganz bewusst mit Äthiopien verknüpft wird.

Marathon wurde sehr häufig auf Afrikaner im Allgemeinen fokussiert, aber nur deswegen weil die wenigsten Europäer Afrikaner auseinander halten können. Selbstverständlich sind auch viele Kenianer dabei, aber gerade in den letzten Jahren ist die Beteiligung äthiopischer LäuferInnen extrem gestiegen. Nicht umsonst, wird in dem Artikel der Spiridon ja auch von der Läuferhauptstadt Addis Abeba gesprochen.

<http://www.laufmagazin-spiridon.de/>

In März-Magazin war ein hochinteressanter, ziemlich umfangreicher Bericht über Äthiopien, den ich eingescannt hatte und liebend gerne ins Internet eingestellt hätte. Leider hat das nicht geklappt.

http://www.ethiopianrun.org/news/apr_04_05_1.htm

Auf dieser Seite sind vor allem nationale Wettkämpfe näher erläutert. Aber natürlich hält diese Seite den Leser auch über das Landesidol und Schwarm aller Frauen Haile Gebrselassie auf dem „Laufenden“.

<http://www.captainw.com/webvidm.htm>

Video zum Thema THE ECOLOGY OF THE GENOME
WES JACKSON outlines a dialogue he has with Monsanto about issues surrounding genetic transfer between

near and distant genetic relatives;
CHRISTINE VON WEIZSAECKER talks about international negotiations on bio-safety;

TEWOLDE EGZIABHER, Africa's spokesperson for the Bio-safety Protocol, talks about current genetic issues.

Aktivitäten von Äthiopien-Initiativen

Dignity for Children/ Hope for Children

More than 200 people came to the German Church in Addis Ababa in late February, when German and Ethiopian musicians played together for street children in Ethiopia's capital. It was an extraordinary concert full of enthusiasm by young musicians. The event marked the end of the joint project "Building a bridge with music" by the German NGO Dignity for Children and its Ethiopian partner Hope for Children. During ten days the four Cellists of the Berliner Cellharmoniker Rouven Schirmer, David Drost, Andreas Kipp and Johannes Ziegler played for children in different schools and after workshops with music students from Addis Ababa University two concerts were held: One on 23/02/05 in the Hilton Hotel and one on 25/02/05 in the German Church.

Anna Lena Schmidt and Jesko Johannsen from the board of Dignity for Children together with the founders of Hope for Children Yonas Tesfaye, Gizachew Ayka and Hawi Badasa had the idea to organise this trip almost two years ago. They wanted to increase the work for the street children by bringing classical music to Ethiopia. Nobody really knows how many children live on the streets of Addis Ababa. While the Ethiopian government estimates the figure with 150,000 – 200,000, UNICEF and actively engaged NGOs talk about 500,000 – 700,000. The children's daily life is subject to inhuman and shameful living conditions. Many have run away from their families due to poverty or violence. They have nothing to eat, they sleep under plastic shelters and they live in the dirty and dangerous streets together with straying dogs. The city's garbage containers make out their 'table of food'.

While the local staff of Hope for Children is familiar with the culture and understands the problems of the children better, Dignity for Children assists with support for individual projects and with sponsorships. Hope for Children contacts children living on the streets directly on the street and invites them to their counselling centres where they get information and the opportunity to benefit from the program. That ranges from food distribution to educational and sport activities. The main target groups of Hope for Children are street people, prostitutes, poorest children and their families, children who lost their parents due to HIV-AIDS and HIV positive children. More than 9,000 children have been helped so far.

After the German NGO Dignity for Children was founded in 2003 it became clear that the association's work would have a special focus on culture. Encouraging children to use their own ideas, creativity and capacities to support their way out of poverty is a key element in the NGOs work as well as widening their horizons through intercultural exchange of ideas and perspectives. That was why this concert trip with German musicians was organised in early 2005 to support the work in Ethiopia and to experience an intercultural exchange of German and Ethiopian musicians. Under the supervision of Israel Dejene from Addis Ababa University musicians from the gospel choirs Servants of God, Sisters in Christ, the Philadelphia Choir and music students from Addis

Ababa University participated in the concerts together with the Berliner Cellharmoniker.

Almost 400 people came to the concerts and by that helped to raise ETB 25,000.- The intense preparations of the musicians paid off in two very successful concerts, which the audience clearly enjoyed very much. At the end of the concerts the musicians were celebrated with standing ovations and encores. The revenue is dedicated to Hope for Children's "Self-dependency for illiterate teenagers project". The project is designed to support 15 children (ten boys and five girls) who have been misused as labour force and have no family to care for them. The children are between 14 and 18 years old. Girls will be enabled to start a small business (like shops), boys will continue to work as weavers but will be self-dependent. Each child will be equipped with materials such as a loom for a weaver and get a room for living and working. The rent will be paid by Hope for Children for six months before the child starts to earn its own living during daytime. In the evenings the child attends evening school. The children will also get training and HIV/Aids awareness education.

Dignity for Children is always looking for new sponsors that are willing to help a child by giving as little as Euro 9,- a month. Becoming a sponsor is possible through Dignity for Children's webpage: www.childdignity.org.

Wabe Children's Aid and Training WCAT

Hilfe und Ausbildung für 150 Straßenkinder

Projektbericht 31.Mai 2004

Ort: Bundesland: Amhara; Regierungsbezirk: Süd Gondar; Kreis: Tach Giant; Auf deutschen Karten: östlich vom Tana-See, östlich von Debre Tabor;

Zielsetzung:

150 bedürftige, arme Waisenkinder und Halbwaisen (Straßenkinder) werden mit Nahrungsmitteln, Kleidung, und Unterrichtsmaterialien versorgt; sie werden durch Sozialarbeiter begleitet und betreut. Mit Hilfe eines „HIV/AIDS-Club“ sollen die Kinder über die Krankheit, die Risiken, die Handhabung unterrichtet werden als auch als Akteure zur Aufklärung über die Krankheit in ihrem Umfeld beitragen. Die Kinder werden durch ein Auswahl-Komitee bestimmt. Wenn Kinder durch Familien-Re-Integrierung, Abwanderung, Heirat, Disziplinprobleme, etc. ausscheiden, werden andere Kinder ausgewählt.

Partnerorganisation:

WABE (Amharischer Name für „Wächter/Betreuung“); WABE ist eine kleine Nicht-Regierungsorganisation (NRO), mit der die DWHH seit geraumer Zeit zusammenarbeitet.

Vergleich:

Projekt-Planung und Durchführung im April 2004:

- Ernährungsprogramm: 98% wird laufend durchgeführt;
- Kleidung: 64 % ist verteilt worden;
- Hygieneartikel: 58% sind verteilt worden;
- Schuhe: 73% sind verteilt worden;
- Unterrichtsmaterialien: 73% sind verteilt worden;

Laufzeit des Projektes: bis Dezember 2004; Beginn der jetzigen Phase war Januar 2003; Die erste Phase war 3 Jahre lang.

Bisherige Erfahrungen:

=>Das Projekt entsprach dem objektiven Bedarf des Gemeinwesens und der Verwaltung.

=>Die Gemeindeverwaltung und die Kreisverwaltung stützen und fördern das Projekt nach besten Kräften.

Wirkungen und Auswirkungen der Maßnahme:

150 junge Menschen erhalten Lebenssicherheit und -inhalt, Orientierung und Halt, „täglich Brot“, und erfahren Elemente und Ordnung für eines würdigen Lebens. 150 junge Menschen erhalten Impulse und Wissensinhalte für ein selbstverantwortliches Dasein. Die Partnerorganisation als auch die Gemeinde- und Kreisverwaltung gewinnen Erfahrungen und Erfahrungswissen in der Durchführung von Sozial-Projekten und insbesondere in der Vorgehensweisen für ähnliche Projekte und Initiativen. Das Projekt kann auch gemessen werden in/an der Anzahl an würdigen Lebenstagen für junge Menschen in einem ärmlichen und erbärmlichen Umfeld: Laufende Projektphase:

150 Menschen x 365 Tage pro Jahr x 2 Jahre = 109.500 positive Menschenlebenstage !!

Probleme:

Nachhaltigkeit: Die Gaben an die Kinder decken unmittelbaren Bedürfnisse, lindern tägliche Not, mindern Überlebensrisiko- und vermitteln Wissen für eine sichere Zukunft. Eine langfristige, lang anhaltende Wirkung kann noch nicht belegt werden, kann sich auch erst in späteren Nachuntersuchungen zeigen. Der Rahmen eines Projektes wie dieses kann keine endgültige Lösung der zu Grunde liegenden Probleme bringen, aber wichtige Impulse und Erfahrungen vermitteln.

Aussteiger: 21 = 14% haben die Gruppe verlassen und sind durch Nachrücker ersetzt worden. Die durch das Gebiet führende Hauptverkehrsstrasse stellt insbesondere für die Mädchen einen großen Risikofaktor dar.

Abweichungen von der Planung:

WABE initiierte, dass durch Wechselkursgewinne entstandene kleine Überschussmittel genutzt werden für zusätzliche Ausbildungselemente wie Ziegenhaltung, Gemüseanbau, etc., die den Kindern nach Ende des Projektes, bzw. nach dem Ausscheiden aus dem Projektrahmen weiterhelfen können.

Einschätzung seitens des DWHH Regionalbüros Addis Ababa:

Das Projekt entspricht dem landesweiten Bedarf von einigen 100.000 Straßenkindern in Äthiopien, von ca. 1,2 Mio. Aidsweisen, im Land, und bringt wichtige moralische, soziale und materielle Hilfestellung für 150 Menschen an einem jedem Lebenstag.

Kontakte:

WABE Manager: Mr. Mestika Negash; Tel. 09-6425 38 mobil; 23 34 61:

Projekt-Koordinator: Alemu Asegaz: Tel. 08-45 00 46

CHILD OF THE PRESENT -MAN OF TOMORROW - CPMT - Stand.Okt.04

Frauen und Kinder in Äthiopien organisieren ein Selbsthilfe-Projekt

Tita ist ein Vorort von Dessie, Bezirkshauptstadt von South Wollo im Bundesstaat Amhara in Äthiopien. Wie auch in vielen anderen äthiopischen Städten sind dort zahlreiche Kinder auf der Straße anzutreffen. Die meisten Straßenkinder gehen nicht zur Schule. Ein Teil dieser Kinder wird von ihren Müttern zum Betteln auf die Straße geschickt.

Viele dieser Mütter, meist alleinerziehenden Frauen, betteln selbst. Andere verrichten Billiglohnarbeiten wie Wassertragen und Holzsammeln, oder sie spinnen Baumwolle für ein geringes Entgelt, das für sie und ihre Kinder kaum zum Überleben reicht. Oft müssen Kinder durch Betteln mit zum Familien-Einkommen beitragen.

Viele Mütter und Kinder, die so das tägliche Überleben bestreiten, sind unterernährt und krank. Ein großer Teil dieser Frauen ist geprägt von Hoffnungslosigkeit und sieht keinen Ausweg aus ihrer Situation.

Eine Sozialarbeiterin aus Dessie erkannte den akuten Handlungsbedarf für das Problem der Straßenkinder und Mütter. Mit ihrem persönlichen, bescheidenen Einkommen bezahlte sie Schulhefte und Schuluniformen für Kinder in Tita. Damit wollte sie diesen Kindern einen Schulbesuch ermöglichen und sie längerfristig von der Straße wegholen. Sie war sich im Klaren darüber, dass sie so längerfristig dem Problem von Straßenkindern in Tita nicht entgegenwirken konnte und suchte Spender.

Als sie 2001 eine einmalige Spende von 500 Euro zur Unterstützung der Kinder erhielt, traf sie sich mit 20 alleinerziehende Mütter, die vom Bürgermeister von Tita als die Ärmsten der Armen identifiziert worden waren.

Gemeinsam planten und organisierten die Frauen ein Projekt zur Verbesserung ihrer Lebenssituation für sich und ihre Kinder.

CPMT AKTIVITÄTEN

- Als Erstes initiierten die Frauen nicht, wie von ihnen erwartet, einen Kindergarten oder Kinder-Crash, sondern eröffneten in einem von der Gemeindeverwaltung zur Verfügung gestellten Raum **einen Kaufladen**. In einer dafür eingerichteten Werkstatt stellen sie selbst Verkaufsprodukte her wie Gewürze, Trocken-Konserven, oder Baumwollgarn und verkaufen diese im Laden. Weitere Produkte wurden mit der Zeit dazugenommen.

- Mit weiterem Geld bauten die Frauen **eine öffentliche Dusche** auf, in der Dorfbewohner und andere Passanten sich für einen minimalen Betrag waschen können

Mit Laden und Dusche wollen die Frauen ein wenn auch minimales, so doch reguläres Einkommen sichern.

Mit der Zeit wurden immer mehr Kinder in der Schule angemeldet.

Die Frauen mieteten mit dem erwirtschafteten Geld eine weitere Dorfhütte und richteten diese als Gemeinschaftsraum, als Treffpunkt für Kinder und Erwachsene, ein. Dort organisieren sie **Spielangebote und Hausaufgabenhilfe für Kinder**.

Dabei übernehmen ältere Kinder auch Verantwortung für jüngere Kinder, indem sie mit ihnen spielen oder ihnen bei den Hausaufgaben helfen.

- Besonders beim Abrechnen im Laden, aber auch sonst in ihrem Leben erkannten die Frauen, dass Lesen, Schreiben und Rechnen die Arbeit ungemein erleichtern.

So richteten sie **Alphabetisierungsklassen** in ihrer Muttersprache Amharisch und in der Verwaltungssprache Englisch ein. Zwei ältere Töchter, die eine höhere Schulklasse besuchen, und ein Vater, boten sich als Lehrer an. Andere **Weiterbildungskurse** (Verwaltung, Gesundheit etc.) wurden mit der Zeit organisiert.

- Mithilfe einer einmaligen Spende konnten die Frauen Anfang 2003 kleine Projekt-Gebäude für Laden und Dusche errichten und eröffneten außerdem **die erste Bäckerei des Ortes**. Als nächstes ist eine Weberei geplant, in der die selbst gesponnene Baumwolle zu Stoff verarbeitet werden soll.

Das Projekt arbeitet inzwischen nach folgenden **Grundsätzen**:

- Die Projekt-Teilnehmerinnen planen alle Projekt – Aktivitäten nach **ihren spezifischen Bedürfnissen**
- Alle Projekt- Mitarbeiter und Mütter tragen für die Durchführung der Projektarbeit die **gleiche Verantwortung**.
- Die Gruppe soll klein und überschaubar bleiben damit sie in **Eigenverwaltung** arbeiten kann .

CPMT ORGANISATION

Das Projekt entstand aus eigener Initiative Betroffener.

Die Kooperative in Tita erhält, wenn möglich, organisatorische Unterstützung von der lokalen evangelischen Kirche 'Mekane Yesus'.

Gegenwärtig sind Lebensunterhalt der Mitarbeiterinnen (jeweils 50 Birr = 5€ monatlich) sowie grundlegende Ausgaben für das Projekt mit einer kleinen Summe von **Privat-Spenden** gesichert. Monatlich werden hierfür 300 Euro über das Konto der **evangelischen Kirchengemeinde Freinsheim** übermittelt .

CPMT PERSPEKTIVEN

In diesem Projekt sind zahlreiche Frauen und Kinder motiviert, selbst Alternativen zu ihrer 'ausweglosen' Situation zu schaffen und durchzuführen. Der Bedarf an solchen Projekten ist groß. Viele andere verzweifelte und mittellose Frauen und Kinder wollen teilnehmen.

Es ist geplant, weitere Selbsthilfe- Projekte dieser Art in der näheren Umgebung zu gründen, in denen Frauen mit dem Einsatz ihrer spezifischen Fähigkeiten und Kenntnisse ihre eigene Situation und die Situation vieler Kinder verbessern können.

Damit können die am Projekt beteiligten Frauen und Kinder in Tita anderen Menschen in ähnlichen Situationen zeigen, dass es immer noch Auswege gibt.

Weitere **Informationen** erhalten Sie bei:

Mrs. Eskedar Mengistu ,P.O. Box 426, Dessie, South Wollo, Ethiopia

Dr. Christiane Hopfer, Dipl.-Ing. agr. trop.. Mark Spoelstra Postfach 118, 67247 Freinsheim, Germany

Tel./Fax: 0049-6353-507030, chrisshopfer@yahoo.com

Spendenkonto für das Projekt :

Evangelische Kirchengemeinde Freinsheim, Verwaltungsamt Grünstadt, Konto 42, Kreissparkasse Bad Dürkheim, BLZ 54651240, **Verwendungszweck: Äthiopien-Freinsheim**

LOS- Projekt / Solarkocher für Äthiopien

Jugendwerkstatt Nienburg / Weser

Zwischen dem 16. Juni und dem 1. Juli werden 5 Teilnehmer/innen der Jugendwerkstatt mit dem Ausbilder Frank Helmerking-Koch über das LOS-Projekt, gefördert durch das Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend und der Europäischen Union - Europäischen Sozialfonds - , nach Äthiopien fliegen. Im Rahmen dieser Reise sollen 6 Solarkocher in der Region Harer in Berufsschulen aufgebaut werden, um den Menschen dort zu zeigen, wie man mit Hilfe von Solarkochern (oder allgemein erneuerbaren Energien) heizen kann ("Hilfe zur Selbsthilfe"). Im Vorfeld der Abreise wird Ahmed Katabay bereits am 2. Juni nach Äthiopien fliegen, um unsere Solarkocher entgegenzunehmen, die in der 14. Kalenderwoche dorthin geschickt wurden. Am 16. Juni geht es dann für die teilnehmenden Jugendlichen vom Flughafen Hannover/Langenhagen los.

In Harer können wir dank der Hilfsorganisation "SOS-Kinderdorf" übernachten.

Während unseres Aufenthalts in Äthiopien werden die oben erwähnten 6 Solarkocher in Berufsschulen in Dire Dawa, Nazaret, Addeellee und Harer aufgebaut.

Der Rückflug beginnt für uns am 30. Juni. Am 1. Juli um 10:50 Uhr ist die Ankunft in Hannover/Langenhagen.

Benefizveranstaltung für Äthiopienhilfe

Auszug aus Fränkische Landeszeitung vom 11.04.2005

Dinkelsbühl/Mittelfranken: Karlheinz Böhms Hilfsorganisation „Menschen für Menschen“ kann den Bau einer Krankenstation in der äthiopischen Region Lebka entgeltlich in die Wege leiten. Dazu beigetragen haben Dinkelsbühler Bürger und Bürgerinnen und Hunderte von Gästen, denn bei der großen Laufveranstaltung wurde ein Reinerlös von rund 5000 Euro erzielt. Rolf Gallbauer aus der Nähe von Gunzenhausen/Mittelfranken, der regionale Ansprechpartner der Hilfsorganisation und Mitorganisator, zog dieses positive Fazit. Etwa 700 Starter haben sich trotz widriger Witterung auf die Strecke begeben und mit ihrem Startgeld einen erheblichen Beitrag geleistet. Zum Rest haben örtliche Gruppierungen und Vereine wie Feuerwehr, Technisches Hilfswerk, Kindergärten, Rotes Kreuz, Arbeiterwohlfahrt und kirchliche Gruppen beigetragen. Allein durch das große Küchenbüfett wurden 2000 Euro eingenommen. Mit dem in Dinkelsbühl mobilisierten Geld erhöhte sich der für das Projekt zur Verfügung stehende Betrag auf 47000 Euro. Die Erlöse weiterer geplanter Laufveranstaltung in Mittelfranken sollen die noch fehlende Summe der veranschlagten Kosten erbringen. Der Bau des geplanten Krankenhauses ist für Herbst 2005 anvisiert, wobei es auf jeden Tag ankommt, denn die Verhältnisse in der Region Lebka sind extrem schwierig. Die katastrophal schlechte Wasserversorgung und die ungünstigen hygienischen Bedingungen verursachen Krankheiten, die bisher kaum behandelbar sind. Mit der Errichtung der Krankenstation kann für etwa 10 000 Menschen zumindest eine medizinische Basisversorgung sicher gestellt werden.

Für sauberes Trinkwasser

Landesausschuss für Innere Mission unterstützt Menschen im äthiopischen Chanka - von Ulrike Strube

PNN, 31. 05. 2005 - 6000 Euro übergab der Landesausschuss für Innere Mission (Lafim) gestern Teferi Barkessa von der Äthiopischen Mekane Yesus Kirche für das Spendenprojekt Chanka in Äthiopien. Der Theologe weilte zum Evangelischen Kirchentag in Deutschland. Mit dem Geld soll die Versorgung der Bevölkerung mit sauberem Trinkwasser verbessert werden.

Seit 1992 unterstützen Mitarbeiter des Lafim, der in Potsdam und im Land Brandenburg Träger beispielsweise einer Kindertagesstätte sowie von Alten- und Pflegeheimen ist, das Projekt Chanka. Zu DDR-Zeiten hatten die diakonische Einrichtung selbst vielfältige Unterstützung von Partneereinrichtungen, Gemeinden und Privatpersonen aus der Bundesrepublik erfahren, die mit Sachspenden, Geld, Kaffee und Schokolade den Alltag erleichterten und versüßten.

Anfang der 90er Jahre suchte der damalige Landesbischof Gottfried Forck Unterstützung für das Projekt Chanka, erzählt Lafim-Pressesprecher Horst Gürtler. In der Region lebt das Volk der Oromo, das von der äthiopischen Regierung keine finanzielle Mittel erhielt. Schätzungsweise 100 000 Frauen, Männer und Kinder ernähren sich von ihren spärlichen Erträgen aus Landwirt-

schaft und Handwerk. Motiviert von den Berichten des sammeln. Zunächst wurden die Spenden genutzt, um für sauberes Trinkwasser im Gebiet Chanka zu sorgen. Seit Bestehen dieses Projektes wurden 165 000 Euro gesammelt, mit denen zudem Impfstoffe gegen die von der Tse-Tse-Fliege auf Rinder übertragenen Krankheiten finanziert und der Bau von zwei Schulen und drei Kindergärten ermöglicht werden konnten. In den vergangenen Jahren rückte verstärkt die Gesundheit ins Zentrum der Arbeit, sagt Angelika Spiekermann, die das Projekt koordiniert. „Wir versuchen immer wieder über die Ursa-

Theologen Forck begannen Lafim-Mitarbeiter Geld zu geben und Folgen von Aids und Genitalverstümmelung von Frauen aufzuklären.“

Regelmäßig reisen Lafim-Mitarbeiter zu ihren Projekten nach Äthiopien. Und das stets, so Horst Gürtler, auf eigene Kosten. Durch die Besuche vor Ort kann die Verwendung der Spenden überwacht und über weitere Hilfe beraten werden.

Kontonummer 123455, Bankleitzahl 350 601 90 bei der KD-Bank Duisburg, Verwendungszweck: Hilfsprojekt Chanka

Bücher

Weibliche Genitalverstümmelung. Eine fundamentale Menschenrechtsverletzung.

Textsammlung Petra Schnüll

TERRE DES FEMMES (Hrsg.)

1999, ISBN: 9-9806165-2-5, 5,50 € (aktuell bei Amazon)

Ines Laufer initiierte 1995 die Gründung der bundesweiten TERRE DES FEMMES-Arbeitsgemeinschaft Genitalverstümmelung mit, die sie ehrenamtlich als Koordinatorin betreut.

Kommentar:

Dieses Buch macht deutlich, dass nicht nur in den betreffenden Ländern die jungen Mädchen und Frauen verstümmelt werden, sondern auch hier in Europa.

Entweder werden die Mädchen im „passenden“ Alter in den Ferien in ihre Heimat geschickt, damit sie sich dort dieser brutalen Praxis unterziehen, oder aber es wird sogar hier in Europa vollzogen, illegal selbstverständlich.

Ines Laufer macht aber auch klar, dass es für uns „Weißen“ nicht ganz einfach ist, wenn wir uns in die Kulturen fremder Länder und gerade in dieses *Tabuthema* „einmischen“. Nach dem Motto: *Wir wissen immer alles besser*. Aber gerade diesen Aspekt finde ich interessant, gleichzeitig auch frustrierend.

Auch ich bin absolut gegen diese Art der „Unterstützung einer Kultur oder Tradition“, ganz gleich welchen Hintergrundes. Es kann nicht sein, dass Menschen im Namen ihrer Religion oder Kultur sterben oder ihr ganzes Leben unter unglaublichen Schmerzen leiden müssen.

Ich bin auch der Meinung, dass gerade die sogenannten „besser gebildeten“ äthiopischen Männer und Frauen ihre (und andere) Töchter beschützen müssen, indem sie mit ihren Landsleuten offen über dieses *Tabuthema* reden.

<http://www.terre-des-femmes.de>, e-mail: TDF@swol.de

The Horn of Africa as Common Homeland. The State and Self-Determination in the Era of Heightened Globalisation

Leenco Lata

232 pp, Paper, \$24.95. ISBN: 0-88920-456-X, Oct. 2004

Contemporary states are generally presumed to be founded on the elements of nation, people, territory, and sovereignty. In the Horn of Africa however, the attempts to find a neat congruence among these elements created more problems than they solved. Leenco Lata demonstrates that conflicts within and between states tend to connect seamlessly in the region. When these conflicts are seen in the context of pressures on the state in an era of heightened globalisation, it becomes

obvious that the Horn needs to adopt multidimensional self-determination.

In Structuring the Horn of Africa as a Common Homeland, Leenco Lata discusses the history of conflicts within and between Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia, and the Sudan, and investigates local and global contributory factors. He assesses the effectiveness of the nation-state model to forge a positive relationship between these governments and the people.

Part 1 summarises the history of self-determination and the state from the French Revolution to the post-Cold War period. Part 2 shows how the states of the Horn of Africa emerged in a highly interactive way, and how these developments continue to reverberate throughout the region, underscoring the necessity of simultaneous regional integration and the decentralisation of power as an approach to conflict resolution.

Motivated by a search for practical answers rather than a strict adherence to any particular theory, this significant work by a political activist provides a thorough analysis of the regions complicated and conflicting goals.

About the Author

Leenco Lata lived in most of the countries of the Horn of Africa between 1978 and 1993, where he experienced first-hand the resonance of the conflicts in the region. His book, *The Ethiopian State at the Crossroads* (1999) is often cited as the most comprehensive analysis of why transition to democracy failed in Ethiopia.

Gumuz and Highland Resettlers - Differing strategies of livelihood and ethnic relations in Metekel, Northwestern Ethiopia

Wolde-Selassie Abbete

Reihe: Göttinger Studien zur Ethnologie

Bd. 12, 2004, 376 S., 35.90 EUR, br., ISBN 3-8258-7819-8

<http://www.lit-verlag.de/isbn/3-8258-7819-8>

This study based on many years of field research tries to reveal the complex socio-cultural, economic and environmental changes brought about by the state-sponsored resettlement scheme Pawe in the north-western lowlands of Ethiopia. The autochthonous inhabitants of the area, the Nilo-Saharan-speaking Gumuz, practising shifting cultivation were confronted with a massive influx of about 80,000 relocated plough cultivators from various drought- and famine-stricken highland parts of the country. From the contradictory strategies of livelihood and resource management of these two groups serious conflicts evolved which have so far not yet been overcome.

Sweetness in the Belly

Camilla Gibb

From an award-winning author and Oxford-trained anthropologist comes a searingly honest and emotional portrayal of people facing extraordinary hardship and loss in the wake of revolution. From the walled Ethiopian city of Harar during the dying years of Haile Selassie's empire, to the council estates of Thatcher's London, Gibb offers nuanced and poignant portraits of refugee experience and the politics of place and displacement.

“A wonderful feat of imagination and empathy.” Louis de Bernières, author of *Captain Corelli's Mandolin*.

Publisher: Doubleday Canada

Termine**Äthiopienseminar 21. bis 23. Oktober 2005****Kultur und Entwicklung**

Wir gehen in einer Kultur der technischen Zivilisation wie selbstverständlich davon aus, dass es ständigen Fortschritt und ständige Verbesserungen gibt. Auch in äthiopischen Kulturen keimt die Hoffnung, wachsende Konsummöglichkeiten zu erhalten. In diesem Seminar wird untersucht und diskutiert, inwieweit äthiopische Kulturen auf Veränderungen und Wachstum, auf Modernisierung und wirtschaftliche Konkurrenz ausgerichtet sind. Und es wird gefragt, ob ein kultureller Wandel Voraussetzung für wirtschaftliche Entwicklung ist.

Ziele:

Information über die aktuelle wirtschaftliche und politische Lage. Kennen lernen der kulturellen Rahmenbedingungen für wirtschaftliche Entwicklung. Respekt für nicht auf Wachstum und ständige Veränderungen ausgerichtet Kulturen entwickeln. Möglichkeiten für Unterstützung von außen für einen u. U. notwendigen kulturellen Wandel entwickeln.

Zielgruppe:

Äthiopien interessierte Öffentlichkeit, Gruppen und Institutionen, die in der Entwicklungszusammenarbeit mit Äthiopien aktiv sind.

Leitung: Reinhard Benhöfer

Anmeldung und weitere Informationen : *Ev.-luth. Missionswerk in Niedersachsen, Bildungsreferat, Nicole Schmidt*

Postfach 1109, 29314 Hermannsburg, Tel. (0 50 52) 69-251

E-Mail: bildungsarbeit@elm-mission.net

[http://www.elm-](http://www.elm-mission.net/deutsch/arbeitsgebiete/aethiopien/index.html)

[mission.net/deutsch/arbeitsgebiete/aethiopien/index.html](http://www.elm-mission.net/deutsch/arbeitsgebiete/aethiopien/index.html)

Öffentliche Vorträge im Rahmen des Äthiopien-Jahres an der Universität Hamburg

15. Juni 2005, Stefan Brüne, Deutsches Übersee-Institut, Hamburg: Äthiopien im Jahr 2020. Akteure, Szenarien und Optionen.

Äthiopien wird im Jahr 2020 eine regionale Hegemonialmacht sein, deren Außen- und Entwicklungshandeln vorausschauender Analyse und einer strategischen

Kultur bedarf. Welche demografischen, ökonomischen und kulturellen Trends zeichnen sich ab und wie könne und sollten die politischen Akteure darauf reagieren?

13. Juli 2005, Volker Matthies, Universität Hamburg: Deutsche Forscher entdecken Aksum.

Aksum, das urbane Zentrum des gleichnamigen antiken Reiches in Nordäthiopien und Keimzelle der äthiopischen Kultur zog schon seit Jahrhunderten europäische Entdecker und Forscher an. Deutsche Reisende und Wissenschaftler wie Rüppell, von Heuglin, Rohlf und Littmann hatten an der Erforschung Aksums wesentlichen Anteil. Dies gilt insbesondere für die berühmte "Deutsche Axum Expedition" Anfang des 20. Jhs. Im Kontext der allgemeinen auf Äthiopien und Aksum bezogenen Reise- und Entdeckungsgeschichte soll unter Rückgriff auf Originaltexte die besondere Rolle deutscher Forscher beleuchtet werden.

26. Oktober 2005, Wolbert Smidt, Universität Hamburg: Die ersten Äthiopier in Deutschland 1840 bis 1893: Sprachinformanten, Missionsschüler, Übersetzer, Studenten.

Die ersten Äthiopier kamen nach Deutschland dank der Aktivitäten deutscher Forscher und, vor allem, Missionären. Nach Deutschland angekommen, mussten sie sich auf ein neues Leben einstellen, aber nicht nur sie, sondern auch die Deutschen konnten bei dieser Begegnung viel lernen und davon profitieren.

9. November 2005, Wolfgang Bender, Universität Mainz: Centenary of the Recording of Ethiopian Music in Germany: Tessema Eshete.

Tessema Eshete wird wohl der erste Sänger und Musiker Äthiopiens - und vielleicht sogar ganz Afrikas gewesen sein, der in Berlin im ersten Jahrzehnt des vergangenen Jahrhunderts von der Firma ODEON professionell aufgenommen wurde und dessen Aufnahmen auf Schallplatten veröffentlicht wurden. Von Kaiser Menelik II. nach Deutschland geschickt, um zum Chauffeur und Automechaniker ausgebildet zu werden, kommt er als reicher Mann aus Deutschland wieder und wird u.a. unter Kaiser Lij Yasu sogar Minister. Es wird wichtiges historisches Bildmaterial vorgeführt und auch die Musik selbst vorgestellt

Alle Veranstaltungen finden in der Abteilung für Afrikanistik und Äthiopistik des Asien-Afrika Instituts der Universität Hamburg, Edmund-Siemers-Allee 1, Flügel Ost, Raum 221, um 19 Uhr statt.

Elections**Mission Statement 24 May, 2005****EUROPEAN UNION ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSION ETHIOPIA 2005****ASSESSMENT OF VOTE COUNTING AND RELEASE OF ELECTORAL RESULTS**

Election Observation Mission regrets the way in which the counting of the votes at the constituency level is being conducted as well as the way in which the release

of results is being handled by the electoral authorities, the government and the political parties, especially the EPRDF. Contrary to voting day when the people of Ethiopia demonstrated a high sense of citizen responsibility and patience, and contrary to vote counting at the polling stations, where order and transparency prevailed, the following irregular practices are of concern:

1. In a press appearance on Monday 16, EPRDF claimed victory in the absence of any results having been made public by the National Electoral Board. A similar statement was released on May 23.

2. Ten days after the election, although electoral results had been posted outside the polling stations in most of the country, the National Electoral Board has only released results from 121 out of 547 constituencies.
3. Since election day, the state-owned media have been releasing on a daily basis provisional, unofficial results mainly showing the partial victories of the EPRDF in a number of constituencies and regions across the country. However, the same media outlets have ignored press conferences or any other statement about results made by opposition parties. For example, on May 18, while international media (e.g. CNN and BBC) covered the press conference by CUD, Ethiopian TV and Radio Ethiopia as well as the next day editions of the state-owned newspapers Addis Zemen and The Ethiopia Herald completely ignored it.
4. Regarding the European Union Election Observation Mission Preliminary Statement of May 17, the state-owned media reported the positive side of the statement while disregarding any critical comments.

These practices, taken as a whole, are seriously undermining the transparency and fairness of the elections. They also risk increasing the scope for manipulation and consequently putting in doubt public confidence in the process. The European Union Election Observation Mission would like to recall that the state media has a duty to report on post election events in an even-handed manner. This duty includes allowing all parties access to the media, albeit while respecting the public interest.

Ethiopia ruling party near victory-early results

By Tsegaye Tadesse

ADDIS ABABA, Sat May 28, 2005 05:10 PM BST (Reuters) - Ethiopia's ruling party and its allies won enough votes in the country's May 15 election to form the next government, provisional election results showed on Saturday. But the opposition said it would not accept the figures released by the Ethiopian Electoral Board, based on returns from more than two-thirds of constituencies, until its charges of vote-rigging are investigated.

The latest results appeared to show that the ruling Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) of Prime Minister Meles Zenawi had staved off its strongest challenge since Meles fought his way to power in 1991.

The EPRDF, which had already claimed victory a day after the election, has so far secured 269 seats in the 547 federal parliament, just short of an absolute majority on its own, the electoral board said. Together with four allied parties which won 14 seats it would have 283 seats, above the 274 needed to form the next government and choose the prime minister under Ethiopian law. The election board is due to announce final results on June 8.

But the main opposition party, the Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD), said it rejected the provisional results. It has also said it has the votes to form the next government. "We will not accept any result before allegations of rigging in 159 polling stations are verified by a neutral body," CUD spokesman Bebebe Eshetu said.

The election was only the second true multi-party poll in the Horn of Africa nation of 72 million, Africa's largest coffee producer and second most populous country after Nigeria.

The CUD has said the ruling party has harassed, threatened or intimidated its voters, and that it does not consider the electoral board a neutral body. Both the CUD and the ruling party have accused the other of irregularities including vote rigging and improper counting.

"The figure issued by the election board is a confirmation of the report we issued earlier," said Bereket Simon, the government information minister and EPRDF spokesman. "The fact that the election board has come with the facts clearly reveals that the counting and tabulation of results has been done in a proper manner."

The electoral board said the CUD won 108 seats followed by the United Ethiopian Democratic Front (UEDF) with 35 seats. Nine other opposition parties have a total of 25 seats, it said. Diplomats said an allied opposition, which campaigned on a platform of free-market reforms, with more than 168 seats would create a serious challenge to the ruling party in the next parliament.

A European Union voting observer mission on Wednesday criticised the EPRDF for manipulating state-owned media to favour its own agenda, and also chastised the electoral board for its slow release of results.

Elections Update 31.5.2005

National Electoral Board of Ethiopia ,May 31 Midday - Of 524 constituencies where the vote was held, (in 23 constituencies of the Somali region, the vote will take place on August 25), 499 preliminary results have been posted by the Board. The results are as follows:

EPRDF (ruling party) 293
 CUD (Opposition) 120
 UEDF (Opposition) 52
 OFDM (Opposition) 11
 BGPDUF (ally/ruling party) 8
 ANDP (ally/ruling party) 8
 SMPDUO 1
 SPDP 1
 HNL (Harar) 1
 OALF 1
 ANDO 1
 SLM 1
 GTDM 1
 Independent 1

Tripartite Enquiry Teams To Be Assigned To Investigate Election Alleged Irregularities

Addis Ababa, 5/30/2005 (ENA) - Contesting Political Parties Forum had agreed to send tripartite enquiry teams which will investigate complaints of political parties over alleged election irregularities in constituencies, whose provisional election results have already been disclosed.

During a meeting the Forum held here on Monday at the hall of the National Electoral Board of Ethiopia, the teams, which will be presided over by the Board would be comprised of all contesting political parties including international observers.

The teams will investigate the complaints in constituencies, where election irregularities were alleged to have been witnessed in accordance with law.

Forum Chairman Kemal Bedri said the public should know that there might be situations in which the existing provisional election results might be changed or not. The Board will give the final decision after the completion of investigation of the enquiry teams, Kemal said. The Board would announce the date for the final disclosure of the results, as consensus has been reached by the

Forum that the investigation of complaints would not be finalised before June 8, 2005, he said.

Referring to a question raised by opposition parties that provisional election results should not be disclosed to public, Kemal said there would not be a problem if provisional results are announced. The disclosure of provisional results is aimed at ensuring transparency and openness, he said, adding that announcement of provisional results would continue by adding votes of higher learning institutions with their respective constituencies.

Kemal said those political parties who filed complaints over election results need to submit their evidences until June 3, 2005. The Board may investigate itself or turn-down certain complaints which cannot meet the criteria set by electoral law, he said. However, he said, if the irregularities are found to change election results, the Board would cancel the election.

Kemal told journalists that the enquiry teams would be set up next week. Meanwhile, Deutsche Welle a German Radio wrongly reported on Monday that re-election would be held in those constituencies, where election irregularities had occurred. Kemal said in a statement he gave to Radio Fana that an agreement was reached among contesting political to set up enquiry teams which will investigate election irregularities not to run re-elections in all constituencies where there are alleged irregularities. If the radio announces that re-elections would be held in all constituencies where alleged irregularities occurred, it was absolutely incorrect.

Certain people said they were disappointed over the dissemination of unfounded and incorrect information to its audiences particularly about the election in Ethiopia.

Verschiedenes

CD mit Liedern, gesungen von Schülern der GCS

Obwohl ich das in unserem Reisebericht auch erwähne, möchte ich doch noch einmal besonders auf die CD hinweisen, die ich produziert habe. Die Tonaufnahmen dazu habe ich während unserer Reise gemacht. Gewiß ist die Aufnahme nicht mit einer Studio-Aufnahme zu vergleichen, vielmehr soll durch die Live-Atmosphäre der frische Eindruck vermittelt werden, den ich so oft mit Bewegung gespürt habe, wenn die Kinder sangen.

Nähere Infos dazu unter

<http://www.germanchurchschool.de/2005cd.html>

Bitte unterstützen Sie dieses kleine Projekt, indem Sie die CD kaufen und auch bei Freunden, Verwandten und Bekannten bewerben. Der Erlös soll für die GCS bestimmt sein.

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Kto.Nr.1011 444 020 Stichwort: GCS (+ evtl. spezielle Spendenzweckbestimmung)

Gerhard Reuther, Ruhla

Symposium "Repatriation and cultural memory"

8.5.2005 Ethiopian Herald - A one-day symposium under the theme "Repatriation and Cultural Memory" was held at the Institute of Ethiopian Studies (IES) on May 4, 2005. The symposium, dedicated to the return to Ethiopia of the celebrated Axum Obelisk brought together Ethiopian and international scholars who commented on various aspects of restitution of cultural objects and the history of Axum.

Professor Richard Pankhurst's closing remarks

People who live differently, as we know, think differently.

Thieves and robbers think differently from the people from whom they have stolen and robbed.

And more relevant to today's Symposium: Those whose countries have inherited loot tend to be complacent, and to think differently from those whose ancestors were plundered.

"The Obelisk in Rome is too heavy to transport!"

"If we return one item of loot from country X, may we not be pressurised into returning something to country Y? Where will it end?"

"We can look after the manuscripts better in Europe than in Africa!"

"The natives are not interested in their cultural heritage!"

The culturally disinherited see things very differently!

"Why should Italy retain the obelisk in violation of its Peace Treaty of 1947? -"Whose culture is it anyway?" an indignant Ethiopian scrawled in Amharic on the ancient stone.

"Why should the finest Ethiopian manuscripts ever produced be held in the Royal Library in Windsor Castle?"

"Why should Nigerian children have to go to London to see the Benin bronzes their ancestors produced?"

The above is, in a way, a continuation of the old debate between Colonised and Colonisers.

When the peoples of Africa and Asia were struggling for their political emancipation:

They were told by their European masters: "We know better how to rule than you do. We are experts in colonial government. We even have professors of colonial administration.

You, on the other hand, are too stupid, or inexperienced, to rule yourselves".

The ruled, the disinherited colonial subjects, replied:

"We want our birth-right!"

"We want to enter into our inheritance!"

"We want the right to make our own mistakes!"

The present debate on the Loot from Africa and the Third World has its roots in that debate about the rights of historically oppressed peoples.

This is because people who in the past had to struggle against foreign rule are now beginning to struggle to regain their cultural heritage from which they were deprived as a direct consequence of that foreign rule.

How did the obelisk, the aeroplane Tsehai and the Ministry of the Pen letters end up in Rome; why are the Maqda treasures and the Benin bronzes in Britain?

There is but one answer: They were taken by force: Might not Right!

AFROMET, the Association for the Return of Maqdala Ethiopian Treasures, whose voice you have heard, is the voice of the culturally robbed, fighting to regain, and reconquer, their cultural heritage.

AFROMET represents the voice of justice, which declares that the plundering of Maqdala in 1868 was an act

Nachrichten

Auszüge aus ETHIOPIA Seven Days Update¹,

zusammengestellt von
Harmen Storck

- Conflict with Eritrea -

Continuing Hostilities:

The Ethiopian government has increased its forces from 60,000 to 90,000 in the border regions, according to sources. The war could start at the Zalambessa or Badme fronts, the sources added. Tekeze Dam, which is under construction with 22m \$, could be an enemy target if war starts, the sources noted, adding that Ethiopia could also give lasting solution to Assab port (*Tobia*, May 5).

Sudan Tribune reported that Eritrea had moved its forces armed with heavy military equipment and artillery to the Assab front (*Lissane Hizb*, May 6).

News reports indicate that Eritrea has been preparing for a new war with Ethiopia. Trenches have been dug at Teseney-Badme front, they added. The Eritrean government has mobilized 300,000 troops for the war and has recently acquired modern tanks and fighter planes from Russia. About 50,000 Eritrean soldiers have moved to the border, sources said. According to sources, the EPLF had started laying landmines in the Temporary Security Zone (TSZ) controlled by UNMEE at the Humera front (*Reporter*, April 24).

UN peacekeepers are investigating two recent armed clashes on the Ethiopia-Eritrea border that left up to four dead, a UN official said. Gail Bindley Taylor Sainte, spokesperson for UNMEE, said the incidents on April 9 and 11 were probably caused by cattle rustling. She added that Ethiopian authorities had categorically denied any involvement, and that UN peacekeepers had no evidence that Ethiopian troops were involved. The two incidents occurred in Om Hajer, a region on the far west of the two countries' border, and close to neighboring Sudan. "This is a known area for cattle rustling," Sainte said (*IRIN*).

The UN Security Council has confirmed that Ethiopia has deployed additional troops of over 60,000 to the border regions between Ethiopia and Eritrea. UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, has also demanded that Ethiopia pull back its forces from the border regions. Earlier, Ethiopia had about 30,000 troops in the region. The UN Security Council said Ethiopia has a total of 90,000 troops in the border areas and that its troop deployment to the border regions was increasing from time to time. The number of troops in the Southern Temporary Security Zone (TSZ) has specially increased, the UN said. The Ethiopian government said the troop movement was for defense purposes (*The Monitor*, March 18).

According to *AP*, Eritrea had amassed 300,000 troops in the border regions, while Ethiopia has increased its troops to 60,000. Quoting a western diplomat, *Reuters* and *AP* said the Eritrean government had amassed 300,000 troops 25 km away from the border. The diplomat said earlier Ethiopia had only 35,000 troops far away from the border. The Ethiopian troops, now raised to 60,000, have moved to places near the border (*Addis Admas*, Feb. 19).

Boundary Commission:

The Ethiopia-Eritrea Boundary Commission has alleged the Ethiopian government took measures that contradict its motives by accepting the decision of the commission in principle. The commission declared this in its recent report to the UN Secretary-General, Dr. Kofi Annan. Among the deceitful acts taken by the Ethiopian government was Ethiopia's cancellation of the meeting called by the

of loot, without any justification whatsoever in international law -an act of plunder which involved the looting of the Church of Medhane Alem, and was thus an act of sacrilege.

commission to conduct negotiations between Ethiopia and Eritrea in London, the report said. The commission had no alternative but to cancel the meeting in London that it had arranged for both countries to meet on Feb. 22 for a dialogue. The meeting was called recently after Ethiopia announced the new five-point peace initiative. The commission also reported that it had closed its field offices, and would return to the region only after Ethiopia completely stopped its repeated preconditions (*Reporter*, March 14).

- Economics, Finance, Commerce -

State Revenues, Budget, Economic Growth:

The level of general inflation during the first quarter of the current Ethiopian fiscal year stood at 2.8%, exhibiting a significant decline compared with the preceding quarter (5.4%). Once again influenced by a low level of cereal inflation, the decline in food inflation has contributed to the fall in the overall price. In the first quarter year under review, food inflation has dropped to 3.1% against its high level of 8% in the preceding quarter. Proxied by core inflation, non-food inflation has reached 2.8% - the third highest quarterly inflation since 1999/2000. Core inflation was higher by 0.9% compared with the level of the preceding quarter. The rise in core inflation was a reflection of the upward movement in the prices of construction materials, oil and house rent among others (*Daily Monitor*, April 4).

Ethiopia had registered an 11.6% economic growth in the year 2003/4 due to a recovery from the past drought. A report said that Ethiopia had registered a "very good" economic growth during the past two years and registered major progress in expanded education, at primary, secondary and university levels. Achievements have also been registered in the maintenance of macro economic stability, strengthened support to exports and private sector, improved service delivery, access to finance, access to land and continued increases in public spending on poverty-oriented sectors among others, the report said (*The Daily Monitor*, Feb. 15).

Debts, Grants, Loans and Credits:

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has said that the Swedish government had cancelled 127m Swedish Croner of Ethiopia's debt. The debt was cancelled following an agreement between the two countries, the ministry said quoting the Ethiopian Embassy. Ethiopia should reach bilateral agreement with each member of the Paris Club to benefit from negotiations made through the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative, the ministry said (*ETV*, May 11).

Ethiopia's trade balance in the first quarter of the year 2004/2005, has registered more than 690m USD deficit, up by 31.3% against the preceding quarter. The country's quarterly total import bill has climbed to 830.2m USD over the reported period while the value of exports stood at a meager 139.m USD. The record during the period showed a 19.9%, 40.3% and 16.1% decline in net service inflows, public transfers and the capital account surplus respectively (*Daily Monitor*, April 4).

A 1.1 billion USD debt cancellation agreement was signed between Ethiopia and Russia. Russia has agreed that Ethiopia would pay the remaining 160 million USD debt over the next 30 years (*State media*, March 30).

The Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MoFED) and the World Bank (WB) have signed a 6.11 million birr grant agreement. The grant, which was extended by the Japanese government and administered by the World Bank, will be used to finance the preparation of the Irrigation and Drainage Project. State Minister of MoFED, Mekonnen Manyazewal said that the grant would support the country's on-going program to be self-sufficient in food production growth (*Radio Ethiopia*, March 23).

A three-year agreement covering the period 2005-2007 regarding the development cooperation activities of Germany in Ethiopia was signed in Berlin on March 18, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said. According to a press release, Germany will provide 80m euro through technical and financial support to Ethiopia for development activities. The lion's share has been taken by the giant multi-sectoral Engineering Capacity Building Program (ECBP) that requires a large number of German experts to work in Ethiopia. The ECBP has been designed so that Ethiopia could share the German experience (*ETV, March 19*).

The Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MoFED) says Ethiopia has secured 9.5 billion birr in grant and loan over the past six months. The Head of Public Relations of the Ministry, Getachew Admasu, said that 4.4 billion birr was obtained in grant while the remaining was in loan. About 2.5 billion birr of the grant was obtained from donor countries while multilateral institutions provided the remaining 1.9 billion birr. China, Britain, Ireland, Italy, U.S.A, Canada and Finland were among the countries that provided new grants, while the multilateral financial institutions included IDA, ADB and UNDP. - The country also obtained some 5.1 billion birr in loan during the same period, out of which about 2.7 billion birr was granted by creditor nations and the remaining 2.4 billion birr was secured from various international institutions (*ETV, March 15*).

The Ethiopian government and the World Bank have signed a total of 184.9m USD loan and grant agreements, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MoFED) said. The agreement provides for the provision of a loan of 19m USD and a grant of 5m USD. The loan and grant will be used to finance the Private Sector Capacity Building Project, which is aimed at facilitating the increased participation of the private sector in Ethiopia's economy through improved productivity and competitiveness. The 160.9m USD loan agreement will be used to finance the Second Road Sector Development Support Project, which focuses on upgrading the Assela-Dodola and Shashemene-Goba, Gogob-Woldiya, Adwa-Shire federal trunk and link roads as well as the construction of Magna-Mechara, Assosa/Sherkole-Guba federal link and regional rural roads (*State media, March 11*).

Foreign Trade:

The drop in the value of the dollar against the Euro and other major currencies has helped boost Ethiopia's export by 30%, the National Bank of Ethiopia (NBE) said. The sector has gained the boost because of the fact that Ethiopia's birr is pegged to the dollar while 90% of the country's export earnings are in Euro and other currencies which are appreciating against the dollar since lately. The country's export earnings are further picking up at the same rate this year. Spurred by a better price, the volume of the export has also increased significantly (*Daily Monitor, April 25*).

Mr. George Rigo, deputy director of ILO's East Africa office, told that the removal of the quota system in the world textile and garment trade would harm the Ethiopian textile industry. The quota system was effective for over 40 years, he added. WTO has lifted the quota system called "multi-fiber" for countries like Ethiopia that used to impose quotas on imported textiles and garment, he added. This was protective even if on a limited scale, he added. Ethiopia is obliged to open its markets according to the new WTO directive. This will destroy textile and garment factories in the country, he said (*Reporter, April 10*).

The Ministry of Agriculture and Development has said that over 4.66m USD was secured from the export of horticultural products over the last six months. The revenue was obtained from the export of over 16,000 tons of oranges, tangerines, bananas, salad, cabbages, carrots, mangoes and pineapples to Djibouti and some European countries. Bekele said that 85% was exported to Djibouti constituting 51% of the export revenue secured from the sector (*Radio Ethiopia, February 21*).

Ethiopia has exported 43.8m birr worth of sugar just ten months after importing sugar for 50m birr to alleviate the shortage in the local market (*Fortune, Feb. 13*).

The annual trade volume between Ethiopia and Germany, which currently stands at 150m USD, is indicative of the low level of trade

relations, the head of the Sub-Saharan Africa Division of the Federal Ministry of Economics and Labor of Germany said. Though trade relations between Ethiopia and Germany remained at a low level, Germany imports 30% of its coffee consumption from Ethiopia, she said. German-made medical equipment, building materials, hydro-electric power generating equipment, quality testers of building materials, agricultural tools, big and small size mobile tents are on display at an exhibition titled "Made in Germany". About 30,000 people are expected to visit the exhibition that will remain open to the public for the next seven days (*Radio Ethiopia, Feb. 18*).

The Ethiopian Electric Power Corporation (EEPCo) has announced preparations to speed up the electricity export project to Djibouti. The project, launched after the signing of the agreement in 2001, provides for the installation of a 283-km power line from Dire Dawa to Djibouti. The African Development Bank (ADB) has approved a 60-m \$ loan for the implementation of the project. The loan will be repaid on a long term minimum interest basis by the two countries. The project is expected to be finalized until 2010. Ethiopia will be receiving up to 33m \$ annually from the export (*ENA, Jan. 27*).

Investment and Investment Policy:

About 70 Chinese enterprises have so far obtained investment licenses to engage in various sectors as a result of efforts made by Ethiopia to attract Chinese investors, the Ethiopian Embassy in Beijing said. The embassy said 18 of the enterprises engaged in pharmaceuticals, infrastructure, metal works, restaurant and other manufacturing sectors had entered the production phase. Some 17 licensed enterprises involved in services, electricity, textile, mines and other sectors are under construction, it said. According to the embassy, the remaining 35 entrepreneurs are conducting feasibility studies to engage in various sectors (*Radio Ethiopia, May 2*).

India's Asia Pulse-RPG group company, KEC International Ltd, has reportedly bagged four contracts worth 52.9m USD from the Ethiopian Electric Power Corporation (EEPCo) under the rural electrification project. The *Press Trust of India (PTI)* said that the three contracts are for the construction of power distribution networks and include erecting 33k V/400 kV voltage distribution lines for about 2,450 km for rural electrification throughout Ethiopia. - Spread over hilly and forest terrain, the total length of the 33kV lines is more than 2000 km, while low voltage lines are approximately over 450 km, the agency said. The scope of the project is funded by the African Development Bank and includes installing 180 low voltage substations, and, after completion, the lines will electrify over 40,000 rural households. The fourth contract is for 230kV single circuit transmission line from Kombolcha to Semera (180 km) and Semera to Dicheto (63 km) (*WIC, April 23*).

Four private investors have obtained investment licenses to generate electric power with a total capital of over 394m birr. Ato Aklilu W/Mariam, manger of the Ethiopian Electric Power Agency, said. Ferelegren Power will generate power using the Awash River and provide electric power to Nazareth. It will spend 340m birr for the project. Addis Power Development also obtained a license to generate additional electric power supply to Addis Ababa from gases that emanate from waste with a capital of 51.8m birr. Ato Aklilu said Nats Micro hydro electric power and Ato Teferra Alemu have also been licensed to develop electric power in the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' State and in Oromia (*Reporter, March 6*).

Mining:

Jordanian Sitech International has signed an agreement with the Ethiopian government to exploit the huge reserve of natural gas in Kalub and Hilala, Somali State, in 2003. Kalub and Hilala have a total reserve of 144 billion cu. m. of gas. The company said it would build a refinery in Dire Dawa, and also build a 580 km pipeline from the site to the refinery. The company will also build power generating plants and fertilizer and cement factories (*Reporter, April 20*).

Sources have said that uranium has been discovered in Bale Zone. Experts from the Ministry and Ray Protection Authority went to the area in Bale to investigate if there is danger to the people and resources in the area as well as to determine the amount of the de-

posit. 16% of the world's electric power is generated from uranium. (IRIN, Feb. 14).

Privatization:

Ato Abraham Habtegi, general manager of the Ethio-Djibouti Railway Enterprise, said an international bid has been announced to privatize the railway enterprise. Three big companies have been selected for the privatization process which started three years ago. The winner of the bid will be announced in June. The technical document to privatize the enterprise has been completed and handed over to the management, he said (Harasab, March 29).

Tourism:

An ABC television crew has shot a documentary film that depicts the good image of the country. The documentary will be aired on prime time for one hour in the U.S. and on television stations throughout the world. The crew interviewed Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, President Girma Wolde Giorgis and Tourism Commissioner Yusuf Abdulahi Sukkar. The ABC crew also filmed tourist attractions and historical places throughout the country (The Monitor, Feb. 11).

Development Projects:

The Christian Relief and Development Association (CRDA) signed a grant agreement for 9.66m birr with 16 indigenous civil society organizations and faith-based organizations. The money was secured from the Swedish International Development Agency. According to a press release CRDA had received a total of 104 proposals following announcement in the local media for the funding opportunity. The recipients have come up with winning projects on HIV/AIDS, development and environment as per the specification of the selection criteria set out in the CRDA-SIDA collaboration agreement (The Reporter, April 30).

UNICEF will spend nearly 60m USD for the implementation of various development programs in Ethiopia during the current year. Education, health, food security, expansion of water facilities as well as HIV/AIDS and malaria prevention are among the program areas of the organization. UNICEF is jointly working with concerned government bodies in providing basic health service for children and facilitating other social services in resettlement sites (Radio Ethiopia, March 28).

Potable water projects constructed by UNICEF at a cost of 20m birr in South Ethiopia People's State have begun providing service, the state's water resource development bureau said. Safe water projects constructed over the past year will benefit 240,000 people. The sinking of 630 large and medium water wells, the development of springs and construction of water distribution institutions are among the works. UNICEF has also been involved in food security activities and construction of toilets. (ENA, Feb. 28)

Transport and Communication:

The federal government has directed state enterprises under its ownership to start using Somaliland's port of Berbera, an order described by industry observers as the most forceful since Ethiopia started to contemplate the use of this outlet five years ago. This port handled small aid cargoes of 20,000 tons as early as 2000. The Port of Berbera is Ethiopia's nearest sea outlet in the region, next to Assab and the port of the sub-region, according to UNCTAD. Berbera received a boost when Ethiopia lost access to the sea through the Eritrean ports of Assab and Massawa. The start of the Ethiopia-Eritrea war in 1998 did not see Berbera strengthen immediately. Before the conflict began, Ethiopia turned first to Djibouti, which has modern container facilities and handles more than four million tons a year (Fortune, Feb. 27).

- Agriculture, Food Aid, Drought -

Agricultural Input and Output:

Ethiopia is expecting over 20 million tons of harvest this year, which exceeds previous good harvesting years by more than 25%, according to the pre-harvest estimate. However, agricultural experts say farmers may face a serious challenge due to the weak agricultural

marketing system of the country. Agricultural experts drawn from different institutions and research centers told that agricultural marketing in Ethiopia suffered from a number of constraints, including inadequate transport network, limited number of large inter-regional traders with adequate storage and working capital, high handling power and under-developed processing industrial sector (Reporter, March 5).

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development has said that 180,000 MT of fertilizer purchased for use this season is being imported. This will be added to the 110,000 metric tons already in reserve, it said. The total amount of fertilizers needed for the two annual crop seasons is estimated at 480,000 metric tons, it said. The purchased amount will be sufficient for use in the belg crop season (ENA, Jan. 22).

Drought, Flood, Famine and Food Aid:

Flash flooding has killed 32 people including six children in Ethiopia's second largest city, police said on May 22. A wall of water hit Dire Dawa in the east of the country causing an estimated USD 1.2m worth of damage and leaving a massive trail of destruction in its wake, police said. "We have recovered 32 bodies and still have 10 people missing," police Sergeant Mohammed Yassim, told IRIN. "This is the first time we have ever had flooding here. It was a wall of water that was 20 m high that came down the river," police Sergeant Mohammed Yassim said. "It has caused enormous damage to houses and cars," he said (IRIN, May 23).

The Ethiopian government and humanitarian partners have issued a Flash Update to the 2005 Joint Humanitarian Appeal for Ethiopia asking for 320 million USD to urgently address the deteriorating humanitarian situation threatening the country. Multi-agency teams led by the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission (DPPC) conducted a field assessment in eight state governments late April and revised both emergency beneficiary numbers and their food and non-food aid requirements. Recent findings from the regions indicated that a total of 687,470 additional beneficiaries will require a food assistance of 66,198 MT from May-October 2005, bringing the total beneficiaries from 3.1 to 3.8 million and adjusted total requirements for 2005 to 464,385 MT, according to the Joint Government and Humanitarian Partners' Appeal presented at a meeting today (State media, May 4).

A release from the U.S. Embassy in Addis Ababa has announced that USAID has provided 19.5m \$ for relief assistance through the WFP. The fund will be used for the purchase of 320 MT of wheat, the embassy said. The U.S. assistance followed reports by the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission as well as the UN disclosing that 2.2 million people need emergency relief assistance. The U.S. government spent 49m \$ for the purchase of 103,999 metric tons of relief food in the current year alone, the release said (Tomar, April 27).

Floods in Somali State had claimed the lives of 80 people and made over 60,000 people homeless, international media reported. Large agricultural farms were also flooded and property was washed away (Nation, April 30). - "Many are still hanging on to trees for dear life," Mohammed Admi Abdi, district administrator of West Emi in Ogaden province, said by telephone. He said the Wabe Shebelle River had burst its banks on the night of April 23 (Reuters, April 24).

Areas in Oromia, Afar and South Ethiopia Peoples States as well as a number of districts in Central and Southern zones of Tigray State have been affected by the drought, and the people in these areas need immediate food aid. 66% of the total amount of relief food needed for the recipients this year is available, while 34% is still expected from the international and local donor organizations (ETV, April 7).

Three to five zones in Afar region are currently facing severe food and water shortages, following the delay of the korma rains in 2004 that usually fall between late June and mid-September. Three of the five zones of Afar are currently facing severe food and water shortages, a study conducted by the Oxfam partner shows. In the Teeru district, previously considered as the heartland of Afar, the traffic is mainly camels and guinea fowls. Previously, cattle, camels, and goats were plentiful and food aid unknown (Daily Monitor, March 1).

Food aid in Ethiopia is in critically short supply with cereal stocks likely to run out next month, the UN World Food Program (WFP) said on Feb. 21. Paul Turnbull, head of WFP's emergency unit, told that only 11% of the requirements for 2.9 million people in March had been covered. The shortfall comes as the government launches a new strategy to try and end the on-going dependency of millions of people on food aid. The strategy, known as the safety net program, seeks to support 5.1 million people depending on food aid, regardless of annual harvests (*IRIN, Feb. 23*).

Food Security:

The European Commission delegation to Ethiopia has signed grant contracts with eight NGOs for the implementation of eight food security development projects, totaling euro 7.1m. The total contribution of the EC amounts to euro 6.3m. These projects will be implemented during 2005-2007 in 21 districts in Tigray, Amhara, Oromia and SNPP Regional States. These projects are complementary of the food security program of support channeled through the government and ensures that the most needy do not slip through the net, The Head of EC Delegation in Ethiopia said. - NGOs were requested to focus on strengthening the capacity of the district administration partners and the respective beneficiary communities to make them effectively implement their food security development initiatives and in particular the safety net program. Since 1997, 56 NGO projects have received funding through the EC Food Security Budget Line with a total contribution of the Commission amounting to Euro 45.2m (*Radio Ethiopia, Feb. 7*).

A tripartite three-year technical cooperation agreement, providing for 1.2m USD to increase Ethiopia's agricultural productivity was signed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Israeli Centre for International Cooperation (MASHAV). State Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Belay Ejigu, said that the main components of the program are technology transfer in the field of horticulture, dairy, capacity building and water harvesting and utilization. The introduction of agricultural biotechnology to improve crop and livestock productivity and short-term on-the-spot training are also part of the components, according to Ato Belay. The State Minister said that the government has given top priority to the promotion of 'high growth agendas' to transform the rural economy, thereby improving the livelihood of the rural poor. - The Ambassador of the State of Israel said MASHAV will provide training and technical assistance designed to assist Ethiopian small-holder and commercial farmers to plant high-yield disease-and-pest resistant crops. In the 2004/05 to 2006/07 technical cooperation accord, USAID and MASHAV will contribute 1.02m and 180,000 USD respectively (*ETV, Feb. 9*).

According to, a new International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) supported program will help reduce the effects of fluctuating commodity prices on the incomes of smallholder farmers in Ethiopia and thereby contribute to improved incomes and food security. According to Reliefweb, the 35.1m UDS program will be largely financed by a 27.2m UDS loan to Ethiopia from IFAD (*Daily Monitor, Jan. 26*).

Environment:

The number of elephants in the Babilie Elephant Sanctuary has reportedly rocketed from 60 to 242. The head of the sanctuary, Wondwossen Sisay, said that the over fourfold increase in the population was registered following the census carried out in Jan. 2005. The dwindling number of birds and mammals in the sanctuary has similarly shown an increase as human encroachment had declined, he said. The Babilie elephant sanctuary shelters more than 250 birds and 22 mammals (*WIC, April 7*).

Afar members of the All Ethiopia Unity Organization (AEUO) have said that Yangud National Park in Afar State has been threatened by man-made problems created by the EPRDF. Lions, ostriches and zebras are among the wild animals that live in the park. They said, Issa pastoralists completely control the park and are illegally hunting the wild animals (*Tobia, Feb. 10*).

Forum for Environment, a local NGO, has said that Conservation International has registered Ethiopia's two bio-diversity hotspots in its list to better introduce the country's natural resources across the world and improve conservation activities. NGO professionals in the field said that since 2000, 25 bio-diversity hotspots had been registered. After a detailed study made at the end of 2004, nine new bio-diversity hotspots were added to the list bringing the number of the hotspots to 34. Eastern Afromontane and Horn of Africa that embrace Ethiopia are among the new entries, according to the professionals. The Eastern Afromontane covers three highland areas, namely Eastern Arc Mountains, Southern Rift and the Ethiopian Highlands, where there are over 7,600 plant species, out of which 2,350 are endemic. The professionals further said despite the fact that the so far registered hotspot areas constitute only 2.3% of our planet, 75% of the endangered bio-diversity is found here. The Horn of Africa bio-diversity hotspot, Ethiopian highlands being at the heart, goes up to the eastern part of the coastal areas of Somalia, including the Red Sea islands (*ETV, Feb. 11*).

The forests in the environs of Arba Minch town are under severe depletion. Natural Resources Protection Expert in the Arba Minch Zuria District Rural Development Coordination Department, Eskindir Bekele, said that the 1,200-ha dense forests around the town had dwindled to a mere 186 ha in the last five years. According to the expert, population increase, wildfire and felling trees for fuel are the reasons for the depletion. Eskindir, who predicted complete destruction of the forest after 20 years if nothing is done about it, said the town is already warming up due to the massive deforestation. He said there is also wildlife migration, drying up of water bodies and extinction of some fish breeds. Many fuel users, according to the expert, have been reluctant to substitute electric energy for fuel. A project is under preparation to involve the public in afforestation and to diversify energy sources, he said (*WIC, Feb. 8*).

Other Issues:

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development says that it would issue land use certificates to four million farmers in Oromia, Amhara, Tigray and Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples states. The new strategy will enhance productivity by guaranteeing ownership, the ministry said. All farmers across the country are expected to be issued with the certificates in the next three years, it said. Some two million people have been provided with land use certificates to date, according to the ministry (*State media, Feb. 19*).

Poor families in Ethiopia could be hit by unusually high cereal prices, according to a report by the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS Net). Current high prices could be pushed up even further by local purchase of food aid that is planned for this year, the USAID-funded FEWS Net said. The high prices, it added, had come as a surprise to many aid organizations because it comes on the heels of reports of a bumper harvest in the country. - Traditionally, the price of cereals drops at this time of year because it is the main harvest period. However, current maize prices are around US \$170 per MT - compared with previous years of \$105 per MT. The government and donor organizations had been looking at local purchases of food for the safety-net program, aimed at supporting five million people. It is estimated more than 200,000 MT of food aid may be purchased locally this year as part of the safety-net program (*IRIN, Jan. 25*).

- Social, Cultural and Political Aspects -

Elections:

➤ Compare EU-Observer statement under Heading "Elections" in this issue

CUD has called on the people to prepare to protect their rights and interests, if the ruling party is not ready to accept the decision of the people in the election by immediately stopping its illegal activities. CUD's leaders said that people should prepare for peaceful means of struggle like prayers, national strikes and peaceful disobedience. Such kinds of protests are peaceful and internationally accepted, they said (*Addis Zena, May 25*).

Ethiopia's main opposition party threatened to boycott the next parliament unless its accusations of fraud and rigging in 139 constituencies are investigated and new polls are held. CUD said on May 23 that evidences of irregularities must be investigated by a neutral body made up of international observers, CUD, ruling party, and the Ethiopian Election Board. Unless the investigations and re-votes are held, "our party will not join the next parliament," CUD Chairman Hailu Shawel said (*Reuters, May 23*).

The elite force called Agazi, which was stationed in Tigray was dispatched to the capital because of fear of civil unrest. It has been stationed in three camps in Addis Ababa. There is speculation that EPRDF deployed the elite force as a deterrent to any form of civil disobedience that may be organized by opposition political parties. - Since members of the police force were not willing to be part of the government plan to crush protests and demonstrations, the government has turned its face to the Agazi army to crash the protests, the sources said (*Hadar, May 26*).

The NEBE had asked four senior judges to start investigating complaints received from all political parties, said spokesman Getahun Amogne. "We consider every complaint, but we have to decide which complaints need to be investigated," he told reporters. "Some we might reject, some we can give immediate decisions on and for some, we have to make further investigations. We expect to give immediate decisions or very quick responses to these complaints." The ruling party has also lodged more than 50 complaints - mainly in Oromia, the country's largest region, he added (*IRIN, May 24*).

The National Electoral Board of Ethiopia (NEBE) has decided that voting at 16 polling stations in Arsi and Hadiya zones, Oromia and Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples states respectively, be conducted again. The polling stations are in six constituencies, the acting registrar of political parties' registration, Mekonnen Wondimu, said. The Board reached the decision after verifying that voters' rights were violated and voting was disrupted at the polls in question, he said (*State media, May 26*).

CUD and the UEDF have protested against the arrests of their observers in all states. Both organizations demanded the immediate release of the arrested people. UEDF and CUD also said the arrests took place right after the opposition parties released the names of their observers on May 13. Their observers were arrested in 13 places in Gurage, Sidama, North Omo and Wolaita zones as well as in North Wello, Dessie, Ibbat, Esetie, Farta and Merhabete, they said (*Reporter, May 18*).

CUD said it had won majority votes in Addis Ababa and other major towns in the country. CUD officials said in a news conference on Monday their party had won in all constituencies in Addis Ababa City Administration except in two where the results are not yet known. CUD said the result of the election had not reached the party so far from the National Electoral Board. CUD had won a majority vote in the towns where CUD had contested (*BBC News, May 16*).

There was an overwhelming turnout in Sunday's election, with voters queuing for hours and polling extended. Foreign observers said they could not verify opposition claims of rigging. The chief EU election monitor, Ana Gomez, called the election a victory for democracy, and a credit to all parties who had participated. She told the BBC it was a bit absurd for the opposition - who have alleged fraud and intimidation - to dismiss the poll at such an early stage (*BBC, May 15*).

Prime Minister Meles Zenawi has banned all demonstrations in the capital, Addis Ababa, and its surrounding areas for one month, following Sunday's nationwide balloting, which the opposition has already claimed fraudulent. Prime Minister Meles' announcement on national television late Sunday surprised many Ethiopians, who had come out in their millions earlier in the day to vote in a hotly contested election between Mr. Meles' ruling party and a coalition of opposition parties. The Ethiopian leader said that, in addition to the month-long ban on demonstrations, he was also assuming direct control of police and other security forces to ensure post-election peace and stability (*VOA, May 15*).

The High Court overturned election rules that had effectively banned thousands of local observers from monitoring Ethiopia's May 15 parliamentary polls. High Court Judge Berhanu Teshome said Tuesday that the rules "contravened," the laws of the country. Mekonnen Wondimu, a lawyer for the National Election Board, said it would appeal the decision (*Associated Press, May 3*).

Thousands of voters in Ethiopia's national elections have to be re-registered because of serious abuses, the chairman of the national election board said. Kemal Bedri said that less than two weeks to the 15 May polling, investigators had discovered irregularities, including underage voters and people with multiple ballots. He added that police were now investigating the abuses - which included 10-year-old children being registered to vote - and would prosecute those found responsible. - Kemal said re-registration would take place in 15 polling stations in Afar, in northeastern Ethiopia, and in three polling stations in Sidama, in the south of the country. Each polling station has around 1,500 voters. It was the second time that abuses including underage voters have been discovered. In March, election board officials discovered that children as young as three were registered to vote and that multiple ballots had been handed out. The problem was discovered in Hadiya district, 200 km south of Addis Ababa, where elections in 2000 had to be re-run because of similar abuses. Traditionally, the district had strongly opposed the ruling party (*IRIN, May 2*).

Officials of the five major opposition parties told journalists that members of opposition parties and supporters are being tortured and are facing imprisonment throughout the country. They said that only in the last few weeks, eight members of the Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD) and the United Ethiopian Democratic Forces (UEDF) have been killed in South Wello and East Gojjam zones. The opposition parties said members of the All Ethiopia Democratic Party, Oromo Federalist Democratic Party, UEDF and the Pan Africanist Party were facing "continuous election harassment" throughout the country. They said that 150 supporters in South Wello and 120 supporters in South Gondar are currently being investigated by the ruling party because of membership and activities. "We have detailed information that this illegal action is being taken by the ruling party," they said (*Daily Monitor, April 28*).

52 EU long-term election observers flew into Ethiopia on April 15, officials said, to act as the "eyes and ears" of the mission - one month ahead of the national elections. Rafael Lopez Pinto, deputy chief observer, told reporters in Addis Ababa that the observers were the core element of the EU mission to assess Ethiopia's third ever democratic ballot (*IRIN, April 18*).

The EU criticized Ethiopia's election board for introducing a rule, which will bar thousands of local observers from monitoring parliamentary elections next month. The state-appointed electoral body issued a directive last week saying civic groups would not be allowed to act as monitors unless they had declared they wanted to observe the May 15 polls when they were registered. The regulation has effectively excluded thousands of Ethiopian monitors from observing the polls (*Reuters, April 17*).

International observers will monitor only 10% of polling stations throughout the country. There are 34,000 polling stations in the country. Local observers will cover 90% of the polling stations, the sources said. The National Electoral Board (NEBE) will set down criteria to nominate local observers (*Reporter, April 3*).

The EU has fielded one of its largest ever teams of election observers to Ethiopia for the 15 May general polls, the mission chief, Ana Gomes, said. Gomes told reporters on March 21 in Addis Ababa that the forthcoming national elections could play a critical role in fostering democracy in Ethiopia and greater stability in the Horn of Africa. The 159-strong observer mission, which would cost about Eur 2.8m, had some initial concerns over whether the elections would be free and fair, she added (*IRIN, March 22*).

Some 3,000 observers are to be deployed throughout Ethiopia on 15 May to monitor elections, the Christian Relief and Development Association (CRDA), an umbrella body of civil-society organizations, said. "This represents a major stride for CSOs [community-based organizations] and NGOs in terms of their engagement in the election as compared to the preceding general election, when only a few were involved in the area," CRDA, which has over 200 members, added in a statement (*IRIN, March 3*).

According to a senior NEB official, the number of voters registered to cast ballots in the upcoming national elections is estimated to reach 25 million. The highest number of registered voters are from Oromia (9 million) followed by Amhara region (7 million), the Southern Na-

tions, Nationalities and Peoples State (4.5 million), Addis Ababa Administration (1.5 million), Tigray State, including disputed Badme, (1.5 million), and Harari State (70,000) (VOA, Feb. 18).

NEB has said that it has given permits to 672 organizations that will be observing the national elections. The office of the Board said that seven local organizations have received permits to delegate their observers in line with the applications they had submitted. Accordingly, six civic organizations and the Ethiopian Democratic Unity Party (EDUP) have received permits to delegate observers. The Ethiopian Human Rights Congress has deployed 74 delegates to observe the process of voter registration. The Ethiopian Teachers' Association has indicated that it has assigned 93 members as observers of voter registration in various parts of the country. The Addis Ababa Women's Association has also deployed 273 permanent and temporary observers in all the ten Sub-City Administrations in Addis Ababa. 30 members of the Society for Victims of Torture of the Red Terror as well as 57 delegates assigned by the Ethiopian Civic Society Coalition will be observing the process of elections. The Oromia Youth Association has received permit for 142 observers (ENA, Feb. 2).

Internal Conflicts:

Ethiopia's armed forces have said they have killed more than 30 rebels during several days of fighting in the Ogaden. Officials say 300 rebels from the Ogaden National Liberation Front crossed over the border from Somalia. They said 30 of them had been captured, along with various weapons, but there is no word of any army casualties. The rebels, who are ethnic Somalis, have fought for the secession of the Ogaden region since the early 1990s. The government blames ONLF's activities for a lack of meaningful development in the region (BBC, April 21).

Political Parties:

The United Ethiopian Democratic Forces (UEDF) and Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD) could not reach an agreement to work together. UEDF said that it was unfortunate that opposition political parties are forced to compete against one another in the election. According to UEDF, there was no response from CUD so far. UEDF had written a letter to CUD earlier this month asking that both coalitions should not compete with one another (Tomar, March 30).

News about Culture and History:

Thousands cheered the homecoming of the third and final piece of the Axum Obelisk on April 25 after 68 years in Rome. The handing over of the obelisk was also formally concluded. President Girma Wolde Giorgis, Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, other senior government officials, ambassadors and invited dignitaries as well as residents of the town welcomed the last segment of the 1,700-old obelisk as it arrived at the Yohannes IV International Airport (state media, April 25).

Experts have discovered a major network of underground funerary chambers and arches near the original site of the ancient obelisk, UNESCO said. The discovery was made last week during a surveying mission in preparation for the return of the final piece of the 1,700-year-old Axum obelisk from Italy, the agency said. Teams from the Paris-based UNESCO found the chambers using high-technology imaging equipment. "It is likely that some of the tombs identified through underground imaging are intact," said Koichiro Matsuura, UNESCO's director-general, in a statement. Welcoming this important discovery, Matsuura said: "Archaeological excavations would now be required to uncover possible vestiges of major historical interest," he said (Daily Monitor, April 27). - UNESCO has asked the Ethiopian government to delay the erection of the Axum obelisk for some time. The vast chambers, part of a royal necropolis predating the Christian era, are located beneath a parking area built on the site in 1963, UNESCO said. Italian researchers were examining images and were creating three-dimensional models of the royal tombs, the agency said (The Monitor, April 29).

Thousands of Ethiopians cheered and cried joyously as Italy on Tuesday returned the first piece of the Axum obelisk, an ancient

national treasure Rome's fascist regime plundered 68 years ago (Daily Monitor, April 20). - The second segment of the Axum Obelisk had arrived in Axum on Friday. This segment is the base of the obelisk and weighs 58.9 tons and is 7.1 m high (ETV, April 22).

Ethiopia has appealed to Britain to match Italy's gesture by repatriating hundreds of artifacts plundered by the British Army in the 19th century, The Times reported. The plunder of Ethiopian treasures after the Battle of Maqdala in 1868 was not one of the finest chapters in British imperial history, it said. An expeditionary force under General Sir Robert Napier invaded Ethiopia after the British consul and several missionaries were taken hostage by the Ethiopian ruler, Emperor Tewodros. The victorious troops looted the imperial treasury and the Church of the Savior of the World, taking crucifixes, Bibles, Christian manuscripts and other irreplaceable religious artifacts. Many items were sold by soldiers, but much remains in British hands. The British Library has nearly 350 manuscripts, the British Museum 80 objects, the Victoria and Albert Museum a gold crown and gold chalice and the Royal Library in Windsor Castle six ecclesiastical manuscripts, according to the newspaper. A few items have been returned, and the British Museum has offered to transfer nine tabots (engraved wooden tablets representing the Ark of the Covenant) to the Ethiopian Church in London on long-term loan, according to the paper (Radio Ethiopia, April 21).

A team of U.S and Ethiopian scientists have discovered the fossilized remains of what they believe is humankind's first walking ancestor, a hominid that lived in the wooded grasslands of the Horn of Africa nearly four million years ago. The bones were discovered in Feb. at a new site called Mille, in the northeastern Afar region of Ethiopia, said Bruce Latimer, director of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History in Ohio. They are estimated to be 3.8-4 million years old. The fossils include a complete tibia from the lower part of the leg, parts of a thighbone, ribs, vertebrae, a collarbone blade, and or scapula. There also is an ankle bone which, with the tibia, shows the creature walked upright, said Latimer, co-leader of the team that discovered the fossils (AP, March 6).

A 635-page book on pre-historic site of Fejej in South Omo which has taken 15 years of study, was launched on Feb. 21. The Fejej area, not far from the Omo sites, was first discovered by the Ethiopian paleoanthropology inventory team in 1989. Beginning from 1993, Fejej site was studied by the French scientist Prof. Henri de Lumley and Dr. Yonas Beyene. Ato Jara H/Mariam, general manager of the Authority for Research and Conservation of Cultural Heritage, said that the book, which contains extraordinary findings of earlier ancestors, would contribute a lot to promoting Ethiopia with regard to research opportunity. The book contains many illustrations, diagrams, and pictures (state media, Feb. 21).

The Ethiopian Authority for Research and Conservation of Cultural Heritage (ARCCH) has disclosed that the early modern human remains, the oldest dated fossils of modern humans from anywhere in the world, have been found in Omo Valley, Southern Ethiopia. Research team member Dr. Solomon Yirga, said that the fossils found in the Omo Valley and specifically called Kibish are approximately 165,000 years old. They exceed the previously found modern human fossils in an area called Herto by some 40,000 years, he said. ARCCH general manager Jara Haile Mariam said that the new finding confirms Ethiopia as a cradle of mankind and origin of the present modern man (ETV, Feb. 17).

A British lawyer, who had in his possession two Ethiopian paintings looted by members of a British expedition force from Maqdala, has handed over the paintings to the Ethiopian Embassy in London. Professor Pankhurst said the act of the British lawyer was exemplary. The looted Maqdala treasures, which are found in the British Museum and at Windsor Castle in Britain, will also be returned to Ethiopia, he said. Sources said there are six religious parchments in the possession of the British Royal Family. The government and the Ethiopian Orthodox Church are campaigning for the return of the Maqdala treasures, which are valued at 1.6 billion pounds (The Monitor, Feb. 11).

Sports:

The twice Olympic 10,000 m champion, Haile Gebre Selassie, won the Great Manchester 10-km race on May 22, clocking 27 min, 25 sec. Haile, who has retired from the track to concentrate on the marathon, sliced 14 sec off Kenyan Felix Limo's previous best. Haile pulled out of last month's London marathon after his training was hampered by an injured left Achilles tendon (*ETV, May 25*).

A tumultuous welcome was accorded to the victorious Ethiopian national team, which clinched nine out of the 12 medals at the St. Etienne, France, cross-country championship (*ETV, March 22*). Kenenisa Bekele made yet another remarkable history by winning the double in the men's long and short race courses for the fourth time in a row. His victory was a surprise to all after the sudden death of his fiancée, Alem Teshale, also an athlete. Turunesh Dibaba surprised the world by becoming the youngest ever world champion in Paris World Athletics Championships. Turunesh's world cross double bid could not have been timed better. She went home 100,000 USD richer. Workinesh Kidane took the silver in the 4km race. In the 6km junior women's race, Gelete Burka, the reigning Ethiopian junior cross country champion, won gold by the largest winning margin ever in this race (*The Reporter, March 26*).

Poverty, Poverty Reduction:

3/4 of Ethiopia's 71 million people do not have access to clean water, UNICEF said. Four out of five live without proper sanitation, it added. Bjorn Ljungqvist, UNICEF's representative in Ethiopia, said Ethiopia must provide clean water for 3.6 million people, and toilets for 4.5 million, every year if it is to reach the millennium targets (*IRIN, March 23*).

In the second annual progress report on Ethiopia's three-year poverty reduction program, Meles said the two most important challenges facing his country were the availability of resources and poor implementation of strategies to combat poverty. Figures released in the progress report showed that defense spending had dropped and was now at 3.4% of gross domestic product - down from 13% at the end of the war with Eritrea. Economic growth in 2003-2004 had topped 11% as the country recovered from previous droughts. Inflation had also been brought down to 9% from 15%. However, the government also highlighted the massive excess liquidity in Ethiopia's banking system, totaling almost US \$2 billion, which, it said, was hampering private sector growth. The Ministry of Finance and Economic Development described the lack of use of the funds - which make up 44% of total bank deposits - as a "huge missed opportunity" (*IRIN, Feb. 14*).

Other Social and Political Issues:

Over 2,000 people die annually in Ethiopia due to the alarmingly increasing traffic accidents, experts said. Philipos Woldemariam, State Minister of Ministry of Infrastructure, said that road damages caused by traffic accident is very high even though the number of cars in the country is low compared to other countries. He indicated that in addition to the over 2,000 dead people, over 8,000 people are reported to have been physically injured annually in the country (*Daily Monitor, March 15*).

HarperCollins Publishers Inc. has retracted allegations made in its book "The Terror Timeline" that accused a Saudi billionaire of helping fund al Qaeda and Osama bin Laden, saying it now has no evidence of any such connection, *Reuters* reported. The allegations were made against businessman Mohammed Hussein Al Amoudi, one of the world's richest men, in the book "The Terror Timeline" written by Paul Thompson and published by HarperCollins's Regan Books imprint last September (*Reporter, Jan. 29*).

The Israeli government has announced plans to bring the last 20,000 members of Ethiopia's Falash Mura community to Israel by the end of 2007. Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has decided to double the monthly rate of immigration to 600 people. The Falash Mura say they are descended from Ethiopian Jews forced to convert to Christianity in the 19th Century. The Falash Mura undergo conversion to Judaism,

after which they are entitled to all the benefits of new immigrants under the Law of Return (*BBC News, Feb. 1*).

Nile Waters:

Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak and Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi discussed joint projects to allow their respective countries to benefit from the waters of the Nile River, Ethiopia's ambassador to Egypt said. The two leaders agreed to "encourage the formulation of joint development projects to ensure the optimal exploitation of hydraulic resources within the framework of the Nile Basin Initiative, notably involving countries east of the river: Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan," Amare Girma said (*AFP, April 17*).

The Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Foundation has declared null and void the 1929 treaty on the Nile River between Egypt and Britain. According to a study made by the foundation, Egypt has no right to impose conditions on the Nile basin countries on how to use the waters of the Nile and Lake Victoria. The Nile treaty between Egypt and Britain was applicable only to the post colonial period, the foundation said. The Anglo-Egyptian treaty bans all the ten other Nile basin countries from using the Nile waters. Egypt gets 90% of the waters from the Nile River and uses it for power generation, irrigation and other services. The Anglo-Egyptian treaty of 1929 also outlaws the use of Lake Victoria by the Nile basin countries. This has harmed Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania (*Menelik, Feb. 25*).

Egypt describes the Nile waters as its strategic resource. It receives 95% of its water needs from the Nile. Egypt has expressed anger about the use of Lake Victoria for irrigation projects by Tanzania and threats by Kenya to use Nile waters for similar projects, the sources said. Egypt has also expressed concern over the agreement by five Nile basin countries to form a union, the sources added. - Egypt uses 55 billion c. m. of water from the Nile annually while Sudan uses 18 billion cu. m. Other Nile basin countries receive only 10 billion cu. m. Egypt has received 140m euro for a project for the maximum use of the Nile River. Ethiopia owns 85% of the Nile waters. Egypt's Minister of Irrigation has stated that the Nile River is not negotiable (*Reporter, Feb. 9*).

Ato Meles said that Ethiopia's patience with Egypt's persistent stand against Ethiopia's use of the Abay (Nile) waters is thinning out. The Ethiopian government will proceed with its irrigation programs, Ato Meles said. He said Egypt is preparing for war against Ethiopia. Egypt has trained its army for jungle warfare, he added. Ato Meles also admitted that Ethiopia is unable to carry out large-scale irrigation projects on the Abay River because of financial constraints and not because of Egypt's military threats. He said that the time for negotiations has passed and that it was time to harness the waters of the Abay River for large irrigation projects (*Reporter, Feb. 7*).

Foreign Relations:

Prime Minister Meles Zenawi left for Paris on Wednesday at the head of a high-level delegation to pay a three-day official visit to France. Prime Minister Meles is to hold talks with French President Jacques Chirac, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation as well as other senior officials. Prime Minister Meles was also scheduled to meet various bodies of the French Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament (*ETV, April 13*).

Ambassador Konjit Sine-Giorgis, Director General of the African Affairs Main Directorate of the Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has said that member countries of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) have agreed to jointly fight against warlords bent on undermining the peace process in Somalia, and condemned foreign interference. Ambassador Konjit told journalists that the two-day IGAD ministerial meeting held recently in Nairobi, Kenya, had issued a communiqué condemning some Somali warlords, countries and non-governmental organizations who work against the peace process in Somalia (*ENA, March 19*). - The BBC has reported that IGAD has decided that Kenya, Djibouti and Ethiopia should not send their peacekeeping forces to Somalia. Donors who give funds to bring peace and stability in Somalia have said the presence of forces from neighboring countries could result in a negative impact. (*Reporter, March 21*).

Kenya and Ethiopia have resolved to beef up security along their border to ensure peace and harmony. During talks at the national palace in Addis Ababa, Kenya's President Mwai Kibaki, on a four-day visit to Ethiopia, and Prime Minister Meles Zenawi reiterated their commitment to good neighborliness and development. Tension has been mounting on the border, with Kenyans complaining of incursions by Ethiopian soldiers and militiamen pursuing rebels of the OLF (*State media, March 10*).

The Military Attaché of the Embassy of the Russian Federation has disclosed that Russia has introduced modern military weapons in the Ethiopian military force and trained Ethiopian military staff with modern methods of warfare. As in the past, Russian forces are engaged in joint military exercises (*Abay, Feb. 26*).

- Education -

The Ministry of Education has disclosed that the construction of 13 new universities in different parts of the country would start shortly. Ato Berhanu Alebachew of the Ministry's Public Relations Services, said that the handing over of land sites of the 12 universities had been completed. Ato Berhanu said there are plans to finalize the construction activities and begin classes in the next academic year. He said that the construction of the new universities would allow the student intake capacity to reach 110,000 in the next five years. The new universities will be built in areas where institutions of higher learning are non-existent. They will be built in Axum, Dessie, Kombolcha, Debre Marcos, Debre Berhan, Semera, Jijiga, Dire Dawa, Bale-Robe, Dilla, Nazareth, Wollaita-Sodo, Mizan Teferi, Tepi and Nekempte. The Ministry of Education and GTZ signed a contract agreement for the construction of the 13 universities. Education Minister Guenet Zewde said that the entire cost of the construction would be covered by the Ethiopian Government. (*Radio Ethiopia, March 13; ETV, March 17*)

The Ministry of Education said the enrollment of female students in higher learning institutions has risen to 25.3% from 11.1% three years ago. She attributed the rise mainly to affirmative action taken by the government as well as the setting up of women and gender affairs offices in all higher education institutes across the country. Similarly, the percentage of female teachers has reached 8.1% against the previous 7.6%, she said (*WIC, March 7*).

The Ministry of Education has said that the construction of Axum University would start next month. This was disclosed by Education Vice Minister Dr. Teshome Yizengaw after obtaining 100 hectares of land from the authorities in Axum. Dr. Teshome said the construction would take five years to complete (*Radio Ethiopia, Feb. 20*).

- Health -

A meningitis outbreak in Ethiopia has claimed the lives of 40 people and infected more than 433, UNICEF told. Vivian Vansteirteghem, head of health and nutrition at UNICEF-Ethiopia, said the country needed US \$2.4m to bridge a funding gap for vaccines and treatment. Meningitis is one of the top ten child killers in Ethiopia, according to the health ministry (*IRIN, April 13*).

The Hamlin Fistula Medical Center, constructed at a cost of over 2.3m birr in Bahir Dar, has become operational. Mr. Luigi Varnero, an Italian philanthropist and building contractor, constructed the center free of charge and handed it over to the State administration. The founder of the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital, Dr. Catherine Hamlin, said at the inaugural ceremony that 33% of women suffering from fistula came from Amhara State. She said the center was constructed with the financial support from humanitarian organizations and philanthropists in Australia, Italy, USA, Sweden and the Netherlands (*WIC, Feb. 16*).

Poor Sanitation and poor hygiene have become the cause for 60% disease burden in Ethiopia, the Ministry of Health (MoH) disclosed. Theodoros Adhanom, Vice Minister of Health, said that the sanitation coverage in the country is still among the least in developing countries worldwide (*Daily Monitor, Feb. 2*).

According to Deputy Health Minister Tedros Adhanom, twenty hospitals have been selected and 30,000 people are going to get anti-retroviral therapy this year, and more than 200,000 persons within

three years. An Ethiopian government report says access by all HIV/AIDS infected persons to anti-retroviral drugs will save the country 78,000 deaths per year and reduce the number of AIDS orphans to 332,000 by 2008 (*AFP, Jan. 24*).

The Ethiopian Ministry of Health (MOH) report revealed that a total of 115,000 adults and children have died due to the disease in the year 2004 alone. In 2003 alone, said the report, an estimated 114,690 Ethiopians had died due to HIV/AIDS. About 265,358 People Living With HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) are currently in need of anti-retroviral treatment where only 2% of them can afford to pay for ARVs and health care services. Since 2004, there are an estimated 105,453 and 27,226 new AIDS cases in the adult and children population respectively, the report said. It also indicated that currently, the national prevalence of HIV in the population was 4.4%. The highest prevalence rate is found in the 15-49 age groups. Around 54.5% of the estimated 1.5 million people with HIV are said to be women while 96,000 are children under the age of 15 (*Daily Monitor, Jan. 24*).

- Human Rights -

Freedom of Press:

Ato Kifle Mulat, president of the Ethiopian Free Press Journalists Association (EFJA), quoting an international media institution, said 11 journalists working with the government media had gone into exile. Most of the journalists used to work for the Oromo service of ETV and Radio Ethiopia, he said. Ato Kifle said there are 30 files against journalists pending in courts. Many journalists will face charges if the restrictive draft press law is endorsed, he said (*Addis Zena, March 30*).

The Federal High Court had approved a decision of the Federal first instance court on the dispute between the Ethiopian Free Press Journalists Association (EFJA) and the Ministry of Justice. The fourth Civil Bench of the Federal first instance court ruling on Dec. 24 had ordered the lifting of the ban imposed against EFJA. However, the Ministry appealed to the Federal High Court to reverse the decision but the court ruled on Feb. 27 that EFJA was a legal association and ordered the ministry to lift the ban imposed on the leadership (*Lis-sane Hizb, March 4*).

Other Issues:

The Oromo National Congress (ONC) has complained that in Oromia region, human rights violations against members of the party are getting worse each day. ONC said its members and supporters have been fired from government offices for unknown reasons and that government cadres are obstructing election campaigning activities. The party also said that in West Shoa zone, Jeldu District, many students have been threatened and some were dismissed accused of being members of ONC (*Tomar, April 6*).

After twelve years of arrest, a court passed a ruling on 21 Oromo people. These individuals were sentenced to death, life and twenty-five years imprisonment. The 238 Oromos were arrested and detained at Addis Ababa Prison for almost thirteen years. Reports said they are being tortured, abused, isolated from other prisoners and received limited food and medication (*Dagim Wenchif, March 29*).

The Ethiopian Human Rights Council (EHRCO) has verified atrocities committed against members of opposition political parties in Wolaita Zone, in the Southern Region as well as in North Shoa Zone of Amhara State. The opposition political party in question is the All Ethiopia Unity Party. According to the report, EHRCO has made independent investigation and has come up with a list of 74 persons who suffered human rights abuses in those regions (*Asqual, Feb. 15*).

Around 4,000 ethnic Oromos are arrested in Shewarobit prison, located 220 km from Addis Ababa, without charge. Most of them have been detained for about ten years and have not been visited by family members or human rights organizations. The prison does not have basic facilities such as drinking water and health services (*Seife Nebelbal, Feb. 11*).

¹ Waag Communications News Digest Service, Addis Ababa