

MEDIA ECONOMIC DIGEST — ETHIOPIA



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Special points of interest:

- **ECONOMY**
- **DEVELOPMENT**

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ECONOMY

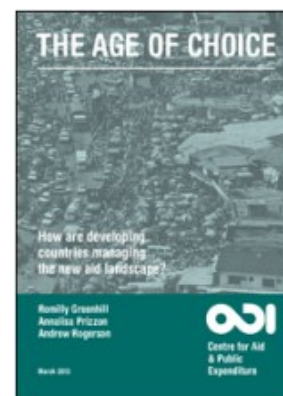
The Age of Choice:

How are developing countries managing the new aid landscape?

This paper was presented at the UNDP Policy Forum. Development cooperation is changing rapidly. There are both demand- and supply-side pressures, which suggest that 'traditional' donor aid from OECD-DAC donors is becoming less important as a source of development finance. There is now a myriad of 'non-traditional' sources of development finance, including from non-DAC donors such as China and India, philanthro-

pists such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and 'social impact investors' such as the Shell Foundation and Acumen Fund.

The growth of the less traditional actors within this changed context has led to changes in the global architecture in terms of reaching agreement on aid effectiveness issues. [Full Story](#)



Nation Allocates 3.6 Million ha. Land for Investment in Agriculture

The Agriculture, Investment and Land Administration Agency said 3.6 million hectares arable land is being provided among investors engaged in agriculture sector. Speaking on a training provided for investors engaged in coffee plantation in Oromia and South Ethiopia Peoples' States, Agency Representative Asres Argaw said 470,000 hectares land has so far pro-

vided for investors. He said Ethiopian nationals and foreign investors are cultivating cotton, palm trees and sugar cane on the stated land. The government is striving to increase participation of the private sector in the agriculture sector, he said, adding, coffee plantation is among the priorities. [Full Story](#)



Ethiopia, IFAD sign US \$85 million Loan Agreement for Pastoral Community Development



The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) will provide a loan of US\$85 million to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to finance a third phase of the Pastoral Community Development Project.

The Government of Ethiopia and the World Bank will co-finance the \$218.2 million project.

Ambassador Mulugeta Alemseged Gessesse, Permanent Representative of the Federal Democratic Republic of

Ethiopia to IFAD and Kanayo F. Nwanze, President of IFAD, signed the loan agreement today. [Full](#)

[Story](#)

“Various developments in the operating processes have been targeted as ways to improve the sector's efficiency”

Leather Industry Takes Panning From Government

The Government has expressed disappointment with leather and leather product exporters, after the country's foreign exchange earnings fell short of expectations and previous performances.

Export revenue in the first quarter of the

2013/14 fiscal year amounted to 628 million dollars. This is just 71.4pc of the government's plan for the period and 10pc lower than the same period a year ago.

According to the Min-

istry of Trade's (MoT) report, the target for the first quarter was 880.1 million dollars, but a decrease in the volume of major export items like coffee and gold has contributed to the decline.

[Full Story](#)

“The Ethiopian Electric Services will be managed by a consortium of three Indian companies with Power Grid Corporation of India spearheading the management.”

Eth. Electric Power Corpo. Split Officially, Two New Entities Go Operational

Ethiopia made official the split into two independent entities of the state utility Ethiopian Electric Power Corporation (EEPCo).

At a press conference yesterday, Deputy Prime Minister Debretsion Gebremichael, minister of Communications

and Information Technology, said the newly formed companies, namely Ethiopian Electric Power and Ethiopian Electric Services, have gone operational this week.

Ethiopian Electric Power is tasked to undertake and oversee the

country's power projects including the mega hydroelectric dams and transmission lines. The company will be headed by Azeb Asnake (Eng.) who is appointed as CEO by the board of directors. [Full Story](#)

[The Metals and Engineering Corporation to Join Forces with Kazakh Companies](#)



The Metals and Engineering Corporation (MeTEC) and the National Welfare Fund Samruk-Kazayna of Kazakhstan are taking steps to establish a joint working group for studying investment opportunities and projects, The Reporter has learnt.

Samruk-Kazyna is a sov-

ereign wealth fund and joint stock company in Kazakhstan which either owns or part-owns many significant companies in the country, including the national rail and postal service, the state oil and gas company KazMunayGas, the state uranium compa-

ny Kazatomprom, Air Astana, and numerous financial groups. [Full Story](#)

“The House of Peoples’ Representatives (HPR), the nation’s lawmaking body, witnessed unusual debates on Thursday where Members of Parliament (MPs) were divided into two groups over a procedure matter of preparing draft laws.”

[Draft Legislation Stirs Unusual Debate in House](#)

a heated debate among MPs with the house splitting into two groups, one behind the speaker, Abudula Gameda, and the other opposing it.

The draft law was tabled before the house for endorsement after it was

revised by Trade Affairs Standing Committee. However, the debate was not about the content of the draft legislation; rather the procedure of writing the draft law and the subsequent

endorsement was the main bone of contention. [Full Story](#)

[New Single Window System to Ease International](#)

“Ethiopia ranks poorly in international trade; a reality this new system will seek to address”

The International Climate Fund (ICF) has signed an agreement with the Ethiopian Revenues & Customs Authority (ERCA) to provide 4.3 million dollars for the establishment of an Electronic single window system.

The system will be used to expedite international

international trade by helping stakeholders access documents needed for customs clearance in one location.

The deal was signed on Friday, December 13, 2013, at the Sheraton Addis, by Beker Shale, Director General of the

ERCA, and William Mkapa, CEO of the ICF. Mkapa was the former president of Tanzania. [Full Story](#)

DEVELOPMENT

Ethiopia, IITA Partner up to Save Ancient False Banana

The Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR) and the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) launched a new project to improve enset (commonly known as false banana because of its resemblance to the crop but with inedible

fruits) by developing varieties with resistance to the deadly bacterial wilt disease

Enset, *Ensete ventricosum*, is a staple food source for over 15 million people in Ethiopia, the only country in the world where it

has been domesticated for over 10,000 years. It is cultivated mostly by smallholder farmers for food, animal feed, and fiber.

[Full Story](#)



Ethiopia: Miscommunication - Telecoms Expansion Targets Quantity Not Quality

Although ethio-telecom is in the midst of an expansion to increase the number of service beneficiaries, such as mobile subscribers, and to that effect investing a large amount of money in the sector, mobile communication has continued to

be unreliable in several parts of Addis Abeba.

Last week, a passenger going by taxi from Kotebe to Megenagna, in Yeka district, saw a person he knew walking on the street. He wanted to talk

to him and dialed his number, but was not able to connect. He was angry with ethio telecom's recorded voice, which informs customers that they cannot connect and that they should try again later. [Full Story](#)

“The average speed of Internet connectivity in Ethiopia is currently at the lowest of any other country across the globe”

Gilgel Gibe III Project to Commence Operation in September 2014

The Gilgel Gibe III hydropower project would commence operation at the beginning of the coming Ethiopian New Year, the Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy said.

In an exclusive interview with ENA, the Minister, Alemayehu Tegen said 80 percent of the construction work on the project has already been done.

He said the project, which has a capacity to

generate 1,870MW electric power would commence operation in September 2007 E.C. [Full Story](#)



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Vacancies



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Upcoming events, meetings & conferences:

Lunch knowledge products entitled Law and development and Legal Pluralism in Ethiopia, 19 Dec. 2013

UNDP Recent Publications:

- ◆ 50 Years of Democratization in Africa
- ◆ Some Reflections on the 50th Anniversary of the AU
- ◆ Piloting New Development Approaches in Ethiopia through the MDG Achievement Fund
- ◆ MDG Progress Reports 2013 - Africa
- ◆ African Renaissance in the context of 'The Rise of the South'
- ◆ UNDP in Ethiopia - Annual Report 2012
- ◆ Making the MDGs Work: From Advocacy Through Implementation to Acceleration and Beyond (See the Ethiopia MDGs Posters)
- ◆ Promoting ICT Based Agriculture Knowledge Management
- ◆ MDGs in Ethiopia - Analyzing Regional Performance and Disparities in Health Outcomes
- ◆ An Effective Legal Framework: Seeds and Plant Variety for the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
- ◆ Towards A Comprehensive Peace-Building Policy and Strategy for Ethiopia
- ◆ Democratization in a developmental state: The case of Ethiopia issues, challenges, and prospects

UNDP Ethiopia 2013 Vision: A Year of Partnership and Innovation for Results.

PAU Vision: To become a credible policy and analytical wing of UNDP Country Office in Ethiopia.

PAU Mission: To provide high quality evidence-based policy and strategic advice to the UNDP Country Office and to the Government of Ethiopia to accelerate sustainable development and attainment of MDGs.