SERVIZIO NEWS
16.04.2015
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PADIGLIONE ITALIANO ALLE PROSSIME FIERE AGREX E HOTELSHOW DI ADDIS ABEBA


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ETHIOPIA KEEN TO EXPAND AFRICA-JAPAN INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION

Ambassador Berhane Gebre-Christos, State Minister for Foreign Affairs, meeting a delegation of the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) headed by Hiroyuki Nemoto, Director-General for Overseas Planning Department of JETRO on Tuesday (April 14), reiterated Ethiopia’s firm commitment to build and promote cooperation between Japan and Africa in industrialization, MoFA reported.

(14.04.2015 - WIC)

Ambassador Berhane, underlining historic ties with Japan, emphasized it was a country Ethiopia valued highly and was ready to pursue shared benefits.

He noted that Ethiopia has made huge headway in socio-economic development coupled with encouraging FDI inflows and an improved investment landscape.

He said it was time for Japanese companies to invest in Ethiopia, and become part of the impetus for the resurgent Ethiopia, not least in area of establishing industrial zones.

Ambassador Berhane, pointing out that Ethiopia was implementing Japan’s Kaizen Management Principles in order to enhance productivity and quality, expressed his hope that the engagement of Japanese companies would encourage Ethiopia’s developmental agenda.

Director-General Hiroyuki Nemoto stressed JETRO was keen to work with the Government of Ethiopia and emphasized that JETRO’S extensive experience in attracting Japanese companies to industrial zones in countries like Bangladesh, Myanmar and India would help support Ethiopia’s industrial development policy.

He noted that JETRO was intending to be a promoter of two-way trade between Africa and Japan and said it would support African infrastructure development, local industries and human resource development.

JETRO is a Japanese government linked organization focusing on promotion of trade and investment between Japan and the rest of the world.
TAP AND ETHIOPIAN ENTER INTO CODE-SHARE AGREEMENT - 15 APRIL, 2015

TAP, Portugal’s leading airline and Ethiopian Airlines, the largest African airline, both Members of Star Alliance, have signed a code-share agreement and will be soon introducing code-share services between Portugal and Ethiopia.

(16.04.2015 - 2Merkato)

These flights will be made available for bookings through both carriers own websites – at www.flytap.com and www.flyethiopian.com - as well as via the worldwide reservations systems, as soon as all required regulatory approvals are completed. The code-share agreement will include services operated and marketed by both carriers via connecting flights to African and European destinations. With this agreement, the two airlines will combine the strength of their respective networks in Europe and in Africa to offer customers convenient and seamless connectivity options when travelling between Portugal and Ethiopia as well as access to Ethiopian and TAP’s operated flights with diverse and improved service options. As Star Alliance carriers, frequent flyer program members of the two airlines are already earning and redeeming miles on each other’s flights. Additionally, Ethiopian and TAP have reciprocal frequent flyer benefits, including lounge access.

In order to offer their customers a wide range of service options, both in terms of gateways and destinations, Ethiopian and TAP pledge to continue looking at future possibilities to further extend the scope of their code-share. CEO of Ethiopian Airlines Group, Tewolde Gebremariam, said: “We are very happy to enter into code-share agreement with TAP, the leading airline in Portugal and fellow Star Alliance member. Our customers traveling between Africa and Europe can now look forward to an even wider and more convenient connectivity options. With a view to give our customers the best possible connectivity options, we are continuously expanding our own network, which now covers 85 international destinations across 5 continents, and extending our market reach to points where we do not fly thru agreements with fellow Star carriers.”

“It is with great pleasure that TAP announces the new code-share partnership with fellow Star Alliance member Ethiopian Airlines. The addition of seamless services between Portugal and Ethiopia, via selected intermediary points, will certainly add convenience and benefits to the travelling public, who will now be able to access East Africa, via our new partner’s extensive local and regional network and optimized connections between both carriers. In code-share with Ethiopian Airlines, TAP is thrilled to be able to offer customers its 15th African
destination - Addis Ababa”, said Fernando Pinto, TAP CEO.

Ethiopian is a global Pan-African carrier currently serving 49 African and a total of 84 international destinations across 5 continents using the latest technology aircraft such as the B777s and B787s.
NATHAN ASSOCIATES INC. DELIVERED LOGISTICS STRATEGY STUDY TO ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT

Nathan Associates Inc., an American Company which has been entrusted with the exhaustive study of Ethiopia’s logistics performance and logistics strategy has submitted the final report of its study.

(15.04.2015 – WIC)

In a ceremony held in Addis Ababa at Hilton Hotel on April 9, 2015, the final study was handed to the Ethiopian government by Eugune Owusu, Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Ethiopia.

The study pointed out recommendations on key matters such as, considering alternative ports, strengthening integration between various governments and private sectors, the development of infrastructure and opting for other modes of transportation.

The two years of study also suggested Ethiopia to make use of Port of Mombasa.

“Recognizing that Ethiopia would like to have other port/corridor options, the intervention emphasis will be on priority corridors to Port Sudan, Mombasa and Berbera,” states the report.

However, the Ethiopian government may not heed the recommendation.

“We are not going to consider the use of Port of Mombasa at the current situation of the country; the major criterion to select a corridor for a country’s import and export is the distance it has from the economic center,” Mekonen Abera, the Director General of the Ethiopian Maritime Affairs Authority (EMAA) told Fortune.

Data from EMAA indicates that the number of Ethiopian cargo especially container shipped to Port of Djibouti is 10,000 per month and the number of trucks coming to Ethiopia every day carrying Ethiopian cargo range between 550 and 600 trucks.

Ethiopia runs 132nd out of 189 countries on The World Bank’s (WB) 2015 Doing Business Index and the logistics performance index showed a change from 2.41 in 2010, 2.24 in 2012 and 2.59 in 2014, all out of five, with five indicating higher performance.
MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH SIGNS MOU WITH ETHIOPIAN MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

The Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Education of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia in order to establish a general framework of cooperation and partnership between the two sides in the field of higher education and scientific research, MoFA reported.

(14.04.2015 – WIC)

The signing of the Memorandum came with the signing of a number of agreements during the first ministerial UAE-Ethiopian Joint Committee meeting in Abu Dhabi. The Ethiopian side was headed by Tedros Adhanom, Ethiopian Foreign Minister, in the presence of a large number of officials from various ministries, institutions and authorities from both countries. The MoU was signed by Reem Al Hashimi, UAE Minister of State, and Kaba Urgessa, Ethiopian State Minister for Education Affairs.

The meeting was attended by Saif Rashed Al Mazroui, Assistant Under-Secretary for Institutional and Support Services, and Khadija Al Braiki, Head of the Cultural Foreign Relationships Department.

The Memorandum stressed the need for the exchange of information and experience in priority areas in the field of higher education and scientific research, and to encourage direct communication between universities and higher education institutions to strengthen their cooperation, as well as the need to encourage the holding of seminars, conferences and lectures on topics of mutual interest, participation in them, the exchange of visits by officials, experts, researchers and technicians in various fields of mutual interest, and visits of university students to participate in scientific, cultural and social activities.

The Memorandum has special provisions devoted to the exchange of information on academic quality, standards of performance, assessment of results and the development of methodologies, student affairs, alumni, and other items to exchange information relating to qualifications awarded by higher education institutions in both countries, to facilitate mutual recognition of such qualifications.
EGYPTIAN PUBLIC DIPLOMATS, RESEARCHERS TO MEET HIS HOLINESS ABUNE MATHIAS

Some twenty Egyptian public diplomats and researchers set to see his Holiness Abune Mathias Sixth Patriarch of Ethiopia Archbishop of Axum and Ichege of the See of Saint Taklehaimanot tomorrow.

(14.04.2015 – WIC)

Education and Training Head of the church, Aba Serekebirhan Woldesamuel told WIC that delegates will hold a discussion with his holiness tomorrow. The discussions will strengthen the bilateral relations and development cooperation between the two sisterly orthodox churches expected.

“The diplomats are also expected to discuss on the use of the Nile waters which will help to take the current agreement to its peak,” he added.

He also indicated that the Egyptian Public Diplomacy will also visit Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahido Churches and Monasteries.

Efforts will be exerted to expand the fruitful experiences recorded lately in public diplomacy between Ethiopia and Egypt, he said, adding that Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahido Church has been playing a significant role in building public diplomacy.
ETHIOPIA SIGNS INITIAL CUSTOMS AGREEMENT WITH UAE

Initial customs agreement had been signed between the UAE Federal Customs Authority (FCA) and Ethiopian Revenues and Custom Authority (ERCA) for mutual technical support concerning custom related issues, The Daily Monitor reported.

(15.04.2015 – 2Merkato)

The agreement was signed on the sidelines of the current meeting of the UAE-Ethiopia Joint Committee, according to the reports from Dubai.

Khaled Al Bustani, Acting Director General of FCA was cited by WMA saying the agreement will have significance for the enhancement of trade between UAE and Ethiopia. And asserted FCA’s interest to boost UAE’s international trade partners via similar bilateral agreements to materialize FCA’s strategic targets.

He also noted UAE seeks to assume an outstanding position as a leading world trade hub having trade relation with majority of countries in the world.

The UAE upholds close and viable trade relations with Ethiopia as a strategic partner in Africa, he said.

According to Saud Salem Al Aqrouby, Head of FCA’s International Relations Department, Ethiopia’s trade transaction with UAE has mounted to AED 9.3 billion from 2009 until mid-2014, with UAE’s export standing at AED 1.2 billion.

“This agreement intends to clear away trade barriers via transfer of information and professionals on shipments, customs policies, training, procedures and inspections. It can as well protect both countries from illegal trade practices,” he was cited.
SOUTH SUDAN

S. SUDAN REBELS GATHER FOR CONSULTATIONS AHEAD OF PEACE TALKS

Delegates from the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement in Opposition (SPLM-IO) participating in a consultative leadership meeting have started to arrive in the rebel-controlled Pagak area near the Ethiopian border.

(15.04.2015 – Sudan Tribune)

The meeting will discuss the rebels’ position before the resumption of the IGAD brokered peace talks in Addis Ababa between the warring parties in South Sudan in a bid to end the 16-month conflict.

In an email exchange, Dickson Gatluak, deputy spokesperson and press assistance to the rebel group, told Sudan Tribune that political and military officials have gathered in Pagak for the highly anticipated opposition consultation conference.

Gatluak said he was informed by military spokesperson Col. Lony T Ngundeng, who was among the first team to arrive in Pagak, that the security situation at the venue is calm and denied any further delay to the start of consultations.

“Despite government’s threat last week to launch attack on the area in order to disrupt the meeting for SPLM/IO members, the security situation is 100% normal,” said Ngundeng.

Speaking on satellite phone from pagak headquarters, Ngundeng said that the all the necessary arrangements are in place and Mai-wut county authority is ready to receive rebel chairman Riek Machar at any time.

In a related development, SPLM members from across the world are currently proceeding to Pagak ahead of the arrival of the former vice-president.

SPLM/IO office for Canada representative Lual Mathok Diing says they are hoping to see a fair and just peace that would not take the youngest nation back to war again.

Diing said the people of South Sudan deserve to see a peace agreement that would meet their demands but not just peace.

“I am calling the entire world and South Sudanese parties particularly to double their efforts and commitment in the next round of talks in order to rescue this county before it slides to be among failed states,” he said.

The rebel conference is expected to kick off by the end of this week. Initially, the meeting was scheduled for 10 April, but was adjourned due to logistical problems.
CRISE AU YÉMEN : UN PONT AÉRI EN HUMANITAIRE À PARTIR DE DJIBOUTI


(15.04.2015 - La Nation)


Le chef de l’Exécutif djiboutien et les ministres yéménites ont aussi soulevé la pertinence d’un pont aérien humanitaire que les Etats membres de la Ligue arabe veulent mettre en place à partir de Djibouti. À ce propos, M. Riyadh Yassin a remercié les autorités de Djibouti pour l’accueil fraternel dispensé aux réfugiés yéménites qui fuient les combats dans leur pays.

...Atténuer la souffrance des populations civiles. Pénuries, exode et centaines de morts sont autant de tristes réalités du contexte sécuritaire précaire prévalant au Yémen. Par conséquent, où les organisations humanitaires ont appelé lundi les protagonistes du conflit à « minimiser » la souffrance des civils.

De son côté, le chef de la diplomatie djiboutienne a expliqué à la presse locale que la visite de son homologue yéménite est importante “à plus d’un titre”. M. Mahmoud Ali Youssouf a rappelé que Djibouti accueille depuis quelques temps de plus en plus de réfugiés yéménites et des déplacés de nombreuses nationalités différentes. Il a également souligné que le séjour de M. Riyadh Yassin au pays a pour objectif de superviser les mécanismes d’un pont aérien humanitaire à partir de Djibouti vers le Yémen et notamment à Aden où les populations civiles se trouvent dans l’impossibilité de couvrir leurs besoins les plus élémentaires. “Ce pont aérien doit être installé rapidement afin de soulager les populations d’Aden et de ses environs.”
La collaboration étroite de Djibouti avec le gouvernement légitime yéménite qui passe par l’octroi de multitudes de facilités nécessaires à la mise en place du pont aérien”, a-t-il indiqué en substance. Sur ce, Mahmoud Ali Youssouf a fait part de son espoir de voir l’émergence rapide d’une solution politique. Une quelconque alternative militaire ne peut à ses yeux résoudre la crise au Yémen. “Certes la solution militaire a été nécessaire à un moment donné mais il faudra maintenant passer au dialogue”, a-t-il martelé avec insistance devant la presse locale.

Pour sa part, le ministre yéménite des Affaires étrangères a dénoncé les crimes perpétrés par les houthis et les milices alliées à l’ancien président Ali Abdallah Salah qui “se vengent sur la population yéménite”. “Cette crise ne se résoudra qui si ces derniers déposent leurs armes et retoument d’où ils sont venus”, a affirmé M. Riyadh Yassin avant de fustiger le manque de conscience de ceux qu’il a traité de “criminels”.

“Ce sont des gens qui n’ont aucun projet politique et qui sont juste là pour faire la guerre, tuer leurs frères et à placer le Yémen sous l’influence de l’Iran “, a-t-il ajouté. Alors que la situation humanitaire du Yémen se dégrade de jour en jour, le Conseil de sécurité de l’ONU a adopté hier, mardi 14 avril 2015, une résolution qui somme les milices chiites houthistes, opposées à l’actuel président, de se retirer, « immédiatement et sans conditions », des zones du pays qu’ils ont récemment conquis.

Le Conseil de sécurité des nations unies a également imposé plusieurs sanctions contre les rebelles, dont un embargo sur les armes. Le Conseil a par ailleurs renouvelé son soutien au président yéménite Abd Rabbo Mansour Hadi, réfugié en Arabie saoudite, et invite les belligérants à régler leurs différends par la négociation, notamment en soutenant la médiation de l’ONU, de façon à obtenir « une cessation rapide » des hostilités. Le projet de résolution avait été rédigé par les pays du Golfe et présenté par la Jordanie, qui préside le Conseil en avril.