



TRIPARTITE MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS OF ERITREA, EGYPT AND SOMALIA

First Tripartite Regular Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of Eritrea, Egypt and Somalia was convened in Cairo on January 11.

At the meeting Mr. Osman Saleh, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Eritrea, Dr. Badir Abdelatty, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Egypt, and Mr. Ahmed Moalim Fiqi, Minister

of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Somalia, discussed on strengthening regional cooperation as well as promotion of peace and security in the Horn of Africa.

The meeting was conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Tripartite Summit held in Asmara on 10 October 2024

between President Isaias Afwerki, President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, and President Hassan Sheikh Mahmoud.

Foreign Minister Osman Saleh further held a meeting with his Egyptian counterpart, Dr. Badr Abdelatty, on bolstering economic cooperation between the two countries.

ERITREAN DELEGATION PARTICIPATES AT EXTRAORDINARY SUMMIT OF AFRICAN UNION

An Eritrean delegation led by Mr. Biniam Berhe, Charge d'Affaires at the Eritrean Embassy in Ethiopia and Eritrea's Permanent Representative at the African Union and Economic Commission of Africa, participated in the Extraordinary Summit of African leaders. This joint meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Ministers of Agriculture was held in preparation for the Extraordinary African Union Summit on the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Program, convened in Kampala, Uganda, from 9 to 11 January.

Eritrean delegation emphasized that Eritrea's development agenda is anchored on self-reliance, national ownership, popular participation, and social justice. Within this framework, the development of the agriculture sector is considered a top priority.

The delegation highlighted Eritrea's commitment to creating a modern, efficient, competitive, and sustainable agriculture sector. This vision is implemented by developing

The Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Program, initiated in 2003, is part of the Strategy and Plan of Action 2026-2035 and the Kampala Declaration on Building Resilient Agrifood Systems in Africa. The summit sessions were organized as follows: on 9 January at the level of Ministers of Agriculture, on 10 January with a joint meeting of Ministers of Agriculture and Foreign Ministers, and on 11 January with leaders of African Union countries.

Addressing the meetings, the

a technologically advanced agriculture sector that contributes to food and nutrition security, economic growth, and improved livelihoods for Eritrean society. *(Full Text of the speech is on page 2)*



BLOOD DONATION BY MEMBERS OF THE FIRST ROUND OF NATIONAL SERVICE



Members of the first round of the national service association have voluntarily donated blood in an effort to save lives through their renewable blood donations. This marks the seventh time the association has conducted such a voluntary initiative.

Mr. Jemal Saleh, Chairman of the association, stated that due to continuous awareness-raising activities, the number of members donating blood has steadily increased. He stressed that no life should be lost due to a lack of blood supply.

Nurse Okbai Yohannes, head of blood services at the National Blood Transfusion Service, commended the initiative taken by members of the first round of the national service association. He also called on others to follow this noble example.

Participants in the program expressed their satisfaction with voluntarily donating blood to enrich the supply for health facilities. They also reiterated their readiness to continue their contributions.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF ERITREAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

The Eritrean Medical Association held its 26th annual conference on 11 January at the Asmara Palace Hotel.

Speaking at the event, Prof. Negasi Leake, President of the association, highlighted that the medical association has over 200 members who play a pivotal role in the country's healthcare system. He emphasized the members' responsibility to lead efforts in improving healthcare delivery, advocating for patients, and modernizing medical services to

achieve measurable outcomes.

Prof. Negasi also noted that the scientific papers presented at the congress hold great significance for daily medical practice. He encouraged members to actively participate in operational research and contribute to scientific studies of medical importance.

The congress featured research papers addressing key topics, including reducing maternal mortality, combating medicine resistance, livestock owners' understanding of brucellosis, and

malaria resistance, among others.

Participants engaged in extensive discussions on the research papers and adopted various recommendations. These included expanding the association's membership, enhancing members' capacities, establishing a research committee, and creating an information network.

Established over 30 years ago, the Eritrean Medical Association continues to grow, with a membership of more than 200 professionals.



Statement by the Delegation of the State of Eritrea at the Joint Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Ministers of Agriculture in Preparation for the Extraordinary AU Summit on the Post-Malabo CAADP

Mr. Chairperson,

I wish at the outset to extend my sincere gratitude to the People and Government of the sisterly Republic of Uganda for the legendary hospitality accorded to my delegation.

Allow me to extend to the Executive Council the greetings of your brother, H.E. Osman Salih, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Eritrea.

Mr Chairperson,

Eritrea welcomes the draft CAADP Strategy and Action Plan (2026-2035) and the Kampala CAADP Declaration on Building Resilient Agrifood systems in Africa. The transformative approach of the draft documents are aligned with Eritrea's agriculture development strategy.

Eritrea's development agenda is anchored on self-reliance, national ownership, popular participation and social justice. Within this framework, the development of the agriculture sector is considered as a top priority.

Eritrea is working to create a modern, efficient, competitive and sustainable agriculture sector. The vision is implemented by creating technologically advanced agriculture sector that contributes to food and nutrition security and safety, economic growth and improvement of the livelihoods of the Eritrean society.

Mr Chairperson.

The efforts to achieve these

goals include conservation and development of natural resources. About 800 dams of varying sizes have been constructed since 1991; 546,400 ha of land have been treated with on farm physical measures.

The introduction of appropriate production technologies and inputs are given priority. In 2021 Eritrea initiated a process to shift from chemical farming to organic farming, with the use of bio pesticides and bio fertilizers.

Eritrea is undertaking several programs aimed at improving the livelihood of small and medium



holder farmers.

Mr. Chairperson,

Eritrea is transforming its agriculture sector towards nutrition sensitive agriculture. Since 1991, fruit production in Eritrea has increased by 71 fold, while

vegetable production had increased by 600%. The growth in dairy, poultry and honey production is also significant. Eritrea has also embarked on palm date production with a goal of planting 200,000 date palm plants by 2026.

The efforts aimed at protecting plants and livestock from disease and damages has registered significant success.

Mr. Chairperson,

My delegation wishes to underscore that the plans and activities at national, regional and continental levels have to be measured primarily by their contributions towards improving the livelihood of the population and their impact in transforming the economy.

I thank you!

January 2025,

Kampala, Republic of Uganda

International Conference on Eritrean Studies . . .

Continued from page 8

The working hypothesis—that these beauty standards stem from colonialism and a globalizing trend favoring the West—was confirmed by my findings. I concluded that this phenomenon exemplifies cultural imperialism, which we must work to dismantle.

I discovered that many individuals aspire to lighter skin tones, longer and softer hair, and even engage in practices like hair bleaching to achieve a “blond” look. These behaviors are deeply influenced by the prevailing beauty standards, which are tied to the legacy of European colonialism. This cultural hegemony adversely affects our cultural identity.

To further investigate, I studied two different ethnic groups in Eritrea, focusing on Asmara and Adi-Keih. My results revealed striking similarities in perceptions of beauty among these groups. I concluded that these standards have negative socio-economic and health impacts on individuals.

One significant conclusion I reached is that the division of races into distinct groups lacks a scientific basis. There are no unique characteristics that define one race from another; the concepts of “pure” white or black races are myths. Supremacist attitudes stem from this misunderstanding. It is crucial to raise awareness among our populations before these issues escalate.

What recommendations would you suggest to address these influences?

I argue that beauty standards are inherently subjective, shaped by varying influences—be they

environmental, social, or cultural. There is no universal standard of beauty ingrained in us at birth. Therefore, we need to re-socialize and educate our societies based on our traditional standards of beauty that predate these external influences.

Additionally, we must study our roots and appreciate the positive aspects of our cultural heritage while addressing the negative. This involves adopting an Afrocentric perspective that aligns our true culture with modern times.

Lastly, I recommend an intersectional approach to tackling these issues, particularly for women who face dual challenges of racial and gender discrimination. These issues cannot be addressed in isolation but must be approached holistically to create meaningful change.

Through my research, I hope to contribute to a broader understanding of beauty standards and their implications, fostering a society that values diversity and cultural authenticity.

Issayas Tesfamariam

Please, introduce yourself and tell us about your journey to becoming the coordinator of the National Public Diplomacy Group NPDG?

I am Issayas Tesfamariam, currently teaching at Stanford University and also working at Hoover Institute within Stanford University.

Public diplomacy has a rich history for Eritreans, dating back to the arrival of Abraham Elfe in the United States in 1924. I recently spoke with his 80-year-old son, who revealed that two other Eritreans arrived around

the same time, though their records are harder to trace. We've secured important documents that illuminate Abraham's life during the Italian colonization of Eritrea, highlighting the evolving migration patterns that have led to a vibrant Eritrean community in the U.S.

The NPDG was established to reshape perceptions of Eritrea and its people. While traditional diplomacy often focuses on governmental relations, our group emphasizes engaging the public to enhance understanding of our communities. By sharing our educational and cultural narratives, we seek to foster a more positive image of Eritrea.

Reflecting on our struggle for independence, many Eritrean groups actively engage in public diplomacy to support our cause. Today, we utilize culture as a foundation for our narrative. Owning our story is vital; if we don't, others may misrepresent us. The NPDG aims to share our collective memory, using it as a platform to tell our story.

What initiatives has the NPDG taken and what are its objectives?

Since launching the NPDG, we have worked to correct misconceptions surrounding Eritrea. Our identity and culture have faced scrutiny, and we are committed to sharing our story and values with future generations, especially the children and grandchildren of Eritrean immigrants.

In 2022, we initiated the quarterly online magazine Eritrean-American Harmony, which has published twelve issues covering diverse topics and reached approximately 38 countries. We also produce a quarterly newsletter to keep our members informed of our activities.

Recognizing the need for a strong online presence, we prioritized building a website to support our ongoing initiatives.

Empowering the youth is central to our mission. We engage young people interested in technology and public diplomacy, creating a platform that reflects our diverse activities. With over 400 young professionals surveyed, we are building a growing network that helps us effectively reach our communities.

Addressing negative portrayals of Eritrea in U.S. media is another critical aspect of our work. We have established our media platform, Harmony, which encompasses publishing, music, and film. By producing our own content, we can better control our narrative and counter misrepresentations.

Currently, our initiatives are largely volunteer-driven, as we dedicate our time and resources to ensure their sustainability. We believe that this work is crucial and should be ongoing, rather than solely reactive.

What is NPDG's vision over the next few years and how do you see the role of Eritrean-Americans evolving in the context of public diplomacy?

Looking ahead, we aim to institutionalize our efforts and encourage more young people to participate. By distributing responsibilities according to individual passions and expertise, we hope to create an online platform that serves as a collective memory for all Eritreans, inviting everyone to contribute to this important narrative.

By harnessing the diverse talents within our community, we can effectively engage in public diplomacy and ensure that Eritreans are heard and understood on their own terms.

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PROFILE**

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A Multifaceted Approach to Promoting Agriculture and Food Security

Dr. Fikrejesus Amahazion

Ensuring food security has been a longstanding area of focus for Eritrea. The nation's protracted war for independence, lasting three decades, completely destroyed its infrastructure (which had been among the most advanced on the continent in the early to mid-1900s) and had a deleterious impact on its economy, particularly its food and agricultural sectors. With a large proportion of the Eritrean population residing in rural areas, agriculture has historically been the pillar of the economy. However, during the long war, fertile, arable land was abandoned or destroyed. Irrigation systems were likewise devastated. Food security challenges and problems were exacerbated through the utter lack of appropriate resource support from the central governing authorities, as well as the creation of a huge population of displaced persons.



Even after winning its independence, Eritrea has had to confront challenges with crop production and food security as a result of several factors. For instance, the country is mainly arid and semi-arid, and as it falls within the Sahelian Belt, it has experienced recurrent and devastating droughts. Due to widespread deforestation (which can be traced back about a century to its time as an Italian colony) and climate change, Eritrea's rivers, lakes, and rainfall are constantly declining. Other harmful factors have been regular locust infestations and a heavy reliance on rain-fed, subsistence farming.

Against this backdrop, Eritrea has made considerable efforts to transform its agricultural sector and reduce the vulnerability of its people to food insecurity.

One important step has been to prioritize agricultural development. Emphasizing self-reliance, social justice, and sustainable development, the government's policy approach has aimed to improve agricultural productivity, enhance food distribution systems, and eliminate dependence on food assistance or imports. Prior to 2013, Eritrea's five-year sectoral strategy development plan for agriculture focused on "food security." Between 2013 and 2020, the theme shifted to "food and nutrition security." Since 2021, the focus has evolved to "safe and nutritious food for everyone, everywhere."

Land reform has remained a fundamental component of the national food and agricultural policy, with the Eritrean government striving to increase the availability of land for farming for all individuals - male and female - by ensuring access

to land to smallholder farmers and promoting collective farming initiatives.

Crucially, this has helped to empower individuals and households within rural areas and encouraged more of them to engage in productive agricultural activities. Additionally, the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), along with its various bodies (such as the Agricultural Extension Department [AED]), and other government institutions have extended vital support to farmers and rural communities, helping them to raise productivity and improve yields. This support includes regular training and workshops (delivered by MoA experts and international partners), the distribution of improved seed varieties, access to fertilizers (often locally developed) and farming equipment, support

linking producers to markets and buyers, initiatives to reduce post-harvest losses, and technical assistance for pest and disease management. Consistent with Eritrea's commitment to social justice and equality, much of this support is provided at a nominal cost (or completely free in cases of need).

Additionally, Eritrea has directed considerable investment to agricultural research and development, including by establishing the National Agriculture Research Institute (NARI). (Established in 2003, it has labs in several locations across the country, including Asmara, She'eb, Halal, and Goluj.) These efforts, with NARI - and local experts - in the lead, have helped to develop crop varieties that are resistant to drought or pests and mitigated against the harmful effects of climate variability. Moreover, collaborative work by the MoA, NARI, and various international developmental partners has introduced new farming techniques, such as conservation agriculture and agroforestry, leading to increased productivity and the preservation of soil health and biodiversity.

Of course, Eritrea has also had to focus heavily on improving water management and expanding irrigation infrastructure. Through major investments and the collective efforts of the government, local communities, the EDF, various other national institutions, and developmental partners, the number of large and medium dams in Eritrea has been increased from 138 at independence to about 800 at present. Many more water catchments and reservoirs have also been developed. Critically, the national distribution of these structures has been vastly improved, so that more are now located in regions and communities where there historically have been none. (It is also worth pointing out that several dozen more dams of varying sizes are currently in different stages of development and projected to be fully completed this year.)

Together, these developments have been essential for ensuring a steady water supply for both irrigation and domestic use, and enabled local farmers to irrigate their fields and sustain agricultural production even during extended



lean, dry spells. (In fact, it has increased the annual number of seasons for farming.) As well, aiming to maximize yields, increase food production, and reduce the reliance on rain-fed agriculture, the MoA has promoted the use of drip and sprinkler irrigation systems, alongside traditional methods of water harvesting, allowing farmers to make more efficient use of available water resources.

Importantly, with environmental challenges and climate change posing an array of challenges and risks, Eritrea has made conservation, as well as climate adaptation and mitigation, a central part of its food security approach. For instance, the government has prioritized reforestation and afforestation projects to combat desertification and restore degraded landscapes, while close cooperation with international partners, including the FAO and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), has led to the implementation of a variety of green, climate-smart agriculture practices nationwide.

Eritrea's pursuit of food security also centers the community and reflects a whole-of-society approach. Rooted in sociocultural traditions and norms, individuals and households in rural areas often extend support to one another for various agricultural activities. As

well, individuals and communities assume an active role in both developing and implementing agricultural policies with the MoA, leading to more responsive programs or projects and a greater likelihood of success. Prominent examples include the cooperative development of dams, collective sowing and harvesting, and community greening campaigns.

It is worth noting that beyond agriculture, Eritrea's fish sector has been recognized for holding significant potential for not just food and nutrition security, but also economic growth. The country, with its extensive Red Sea coastline, is immensely rich in marine resources, offering vast opportunities for both wild capture fisheries and aquaculture, while the sector provides essential protein to local communities and supports livelihoods, particularly for coastal populations.

Eritrea's continued focus and targeted investment, including through expanding limited infrastructure, strengthening underdeveloped processing capabilities, improving sustainable fishing practices, incorporating technology, and enhancing market access will allow the country to substantially strengthen its fish sector, boost national food and nutrition security, and foster socioeconomic development.





The Chronicles of Heritage

Sona Berhane

Delving into Eritrean customs, Bereket Amare's insightful book "ኅዳር ወር ኅዳር ወር" offers a captivating exploration of Tigrigna society across the twelve months of the year. Published in 2022, the book meticulously records the various traditions and customs that shape Eritrean life. To illuminate the cultural significance of January, the following excerpt is drawn and translated from the chapter dedicated to this specific month.



invariably a body of water, the priests and clergymen go on to pray on and bless the water with their large golden crosses and swing their big, fragrant censers across it. When the holy prayers come to an end, the priests take handfuls of the blessed water and splash everyone with it. The people clamor to get splashed

A deeply held belief among the people posits that the observance of Holy Baptism on January 11th marks the end of the harsh winter that has gripped the region since November. Following Epiphany, it is widely believed that the cold weather gradually dissipates, and migrates down to the sea.

During the winter months,

cycles and the nuances of their land. However, success also hinges on the crucial factor of timely weather patterns, with the expectation that the current year will adhere to the established rhythms of nature. The arrival of the Azmara rains during the spring months is considered a particularly promising sign,



with this water, which is a symbolic baptizing of a sort, and some even take a little of this holy water back home so that people who couldn't attend the procession and ceremony can take part in the "Holy Baptism".

Upon the conclusion of the ceremony, the priests and clergymen carefully return the sacred shrines to their respective churches, maintaining the reverent covering of sumptuous drapes throughout the procession.

farmers engage in essential agricultural practices, the most important of which is top-dressing their fields. This involves spreading fertilizing materials onto the soil surface without tilling, allowing them to gradually integrate into the underlying earth. This practice is undertaken with the fervent hope of ensuring a bountiful rainy season. The livelihoods of agrarian communities are intricately intertwined with a deep understanding of seasonal

auguring a good and rainy summer season. Concurrent with these soil nourishment preparations, farmers meticulously maintain and refurbish their agricultural implements in anticipation of the arduous labor that lies ahead. Meanwhile, women play a vital role in preparing seeds and grains for sowing, ensuring the continuity of agricultural practices. Thus, with a mixture of hope and anticipation, farmers eagerly await the onset of the summer rains.

Historically, January has been a favored month for weddings. This preference extends from the beginning of the year until the start of Lent, typically encompassing the majority of February. This temporal choice is not arbitrary but rather deeply interconnected with seasonal factors and agricultural productivity. For agrarian societies, January offered a crucial period of respite from intensive agricultural labor. Following the rainy season, crops had matured, harvests were completed, and grain was processed and stored. This ensured food security and economic stability, allowing people to contemplate and prepare for the forthcoming year, including the important social institution of marriage. While some might postpone weddings until after Easter or even during the summer months, January generally represents a period of relative leisure and social festivity for these communities.

traversing the region, hopping from one ceremony to another, participating in a seemingly endless succession of weddings. The festive spirit extends beyond the confines of the home, with evenings often dedicated to these spirited celebrations, characterized by an abundance of food and drink. The intensity of the celebrations is palpable, manifested in the exuberant dancing, where individuals exhibit a remarkable physicality, their neck and shoulder movements imbued with a joyous abandon that borders on the ecstatic. Even the drumming takes on an unparalleled fervor, with skilled percussionists demonstrating astonishing dexterity and rhythmic complexity.

While this period of heightened social activity may occasionally give rise to minor social friction, as aptly captured by the proverb "ኅዳር ወር ኅዳር ወር" ("In January, even the dregs break their vats."), it undeniably constitutes a period of unparalleled social effervescence and cultural expression.

January also witnesses the sacred Christian celebration, namely, the Epiphany (also known locally as the "Holy Baptism"). In the Geez calendar, this holy day falls on the 11th of January. Throughout the preceding night, one hears the continuous prayers and hymns emanating from churches. At the break of dawn, priests and religious leaders, carrying the shrine of their respective church, make way to the place of the baptism. The shrine, which is a representation of the Ark of the Covenant and, consequently, considered extremely holy, is draped in the most beautiful pieces of cloth woven with golden threads. Led by the priests, this orderly procession to the place of the ceremony is accompanied by numerous members of the church and its choir, ululating women and also men clad in their ceremonious white muslin. Upon reaching the place of the ceremony, which is

Eritrea is a nation characterized by the coexistence of Christianity and Islam, fostering a diverse religious landscape. As a result, for individuals not bound by the restrictions of the Lenten season, the selection of months for wedding ceremonies has greater flexibility. However, given the significant reliance of the Eritrean population on agriculture and livestock, major social events such as weddings and memorial services are often strategically scheduled to coincide with autumnal harvests. This alignment reflects the profound importance of agricultural success, particularly for rural communities whose livelihoods are intimately intertwined with the land. For this reason, when a child comes of age, the selection of an auspicious wedding month becomes a crucial consideration for parents.

January is traditionally referred to as the "frenzied January" ("ወር ወር"), a period characterized by heightened social activity and festivity. The towns and villages are typically alive with the thunderous, rhythmic thud-thud of drums. Lively gatherings abound, with individuals

Development

Eritrea Participates in the Sixteenth Conference of Parties of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

An Eritrean delegation participated in the Sixteenth Conference of Parties (COP 16) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), convened in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia from 2 to 16 December 2024, under the theme: "Our Land, Our Future."

The delegation, headed by Mr. Semere Amlesom, Director General of the Agricultural Extension Department at the Ministry of

Management (DRM) and Climate Change Adaptation projects across the Six Agroecological Zones of Eritrea. He also affirmed that the country has aligned its voluntarily set Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) target to meet the global SDG target 15.3. Finally, Mr. Semere explained Eritrea's short-term and long-term plans and current initiatives towards the containment of sand and dust storms through date palm plantations, mainly across the

2024-2028, under the theme "Safe and Nutritious Food for Everyone; Everywhere!", with a special focus on the Small and Productive Farm Plot (SPFP) strategy, which can be implemented even in semi-arid regions of the country to mitigate the effects of drought and improve productivity per unit land.

Finally, participants of the side event, after commending Eritrea's initiatives, forwarded questions

in 1994, and Eritrea ratified its membership in 1996. The Conference of Parties of the UNCCD is held every two years, and it is to be noted that COP 15 was convened in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire in 2022.

Seminar to Eritrean Community Members in Riyadh

The delegation from the MoA also conducted a seminar regarding the progress of the agricultural

production, veterinary services, among others.

Furthermore, the delegation emphasized that the government is reinforcing its endeavors to transform and/or supplement the rain-fed crop production systems into modified and pressurized irrigation systems; and explained that the outcome on the ground is promising. Several initiatives aimed at improving dairy and poultry production were also discussed. During the seminar, the



Agriculture (MoA), participated in the high-level segment, plenary, and technical sessions that addressed desertification, land degradation, and drought.

In his national statement at the Meeting of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC), Mr. Semere Amlesom commended the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for hosting such an important global event and congratulated its election to the presidency of the COP. He then presented Eritrea's efforts and commitment towards fighting the devastating effects of desertification, land degradation, and drought since the country's independence.

In his statement, he outlined the country's important strategies and actions, including:

- Developing a drought mitigation plan;
- Expanding water conservation and groundwater management;
- Enhancing soil and water conservation and afforestation programs;
- Adopting climate-smart agricultural practices;
- Setting up a modern national meteorological services;
- Reinforcing capacity development programs; and
- Engaging all relevant development partners and the community in the fight against drought and interrelated challenges.

Furthermore, Mr. Semere outlined the need for Integrated Disaster Risk

coastal and adjacent areas.

Eritrea's Side Event

Moreover, the delegation presented Eritrea's experiences in Combating Desertification, Land Degradation, and Drought (DLDD) to representatives of different country parties in a side event voluntarily organized on the 11th of December 2024.

During the side event, attended by Ms. Weini Ghebreigziabiher, Chargé d'Affaires of the Eritrean Embassy in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the delegation explained that Eritrea is exposed to DLDD mainly due to its geographical location and landscape. To combat these challenges and mitigate their devastating effects, the government and the people of Eritrea have been actively engaged in numerous land rehabilitation programs, the delegation members affirmed. Moreover, the presentations addressed the need for collaborative global, regional, and sub-regional efforts to tackle these issues and confirmed Eritrea's readiness for such kinds of initiatives.

In addition, members of the delegation presented detailed information and a video showcasing the country's challenges and opportunities in combating DLDD; its endeavors in soil and water conservation, construction of water reservoirs, implementation of land degradation neutrality (LDN) targets, among others. The presentations also elaborated on the Ministry's new strategic plan that extends from

and recommendations regarding drought data records; participation of farmers in general and that of the youth and women in particular; and the importance of regional collaborations to combat DLDD, among others. Members of the delegation provided satisfactory responses.

According to official information, the 2024 COP is the largest-ever meeting of the UNCCD's 196 country parties and the European Union and is expected to become a landmark event for accelerating actions regarding land restoration, drought resilience, and green transition.

UNCCD reports indicate that 40% of the Earth's surface is being affected by land degradation, impacting



the lives of 3.2 billion people. The information also illustrates that around 100 million hectares of land get degraded annually. Moreover, it is to be noted that 86% of the UNCCD country parties (169 out of 196) are affected by Desertification, Land Degradation, and Drought.

The UNCCD was established

sector in the country to the heads of the Eritrean Community; National Union of Eritrean Women; Youth Association; as well as heads of PFDJ sub-branches and groups on 13th December 2024 at the premises of the Eritrean Embassy in Riyadh.

The seminar, conducted by Mr. Semere Amlesom, Director General of Agricultural Extension Department; and Mr. Michael Berhane, Director of Natural Resources and Irrigation Development Division in the same department; highlighted achievements, challenges, opportunities, as well as future programs of the Agriculture sector in Eritrea.

The Eritrean delegation explained that despite the challenges posed

delegation outlined the MoA's new strategic development plan and its implementation modalities to contribute to the roadmap for "Safe and Nutritious Food for Everyone; Everywhere!".

It was stated that the plan will be implemented in collaboration with relevant Eritrean institutions and development partners; and all the set strategies are designed in such a way that they include Eritreans in the diaspora. Furthermore, the delegation stressed that the Eritrean diaspora is expected, as usual, to reinforce their participation and utilize their comparative advantage for the benefit of their country.

Participants of the seminar, on their part, called for the preservation of Eritrea's agricultural genetic resources; making the best use of the water reservoirs in agricultural production and productivity; and creating a conducive environment for the Eritrean diaspora to invest in agriculture, among others.

In conclusion, Ms. Weini Ghebreigziabiher, Chargé d'Affaires of the Eritrean Embassy in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, praised the delegation for providing timely and first-hand information and affirmed that similar programs will continue to equip the Eritrean community with information regarding their country's development programs.

(Taken from the Monthly Newsletter Prepared by the Public Relations Division, Issue No 79, January 2025)



Vacancy Announcement

CHINA ENERGY ENGINEERING GROUP SHANXI ELECTRIC POWER CONSTRUCTION CO.,LTD DEKEMHARE PROJECT MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT is inviting for the following positions.

- Job title and (number required)
 1. Civil technician-senior (36)
 2. Electrical Technician-senior (7)
 3. Electro-mechanical technician-senior(12)
 4. Commission director(5)
 5. Heavy Machinery Operator(7)
 6. Mechanical maintenance(2)
 7. Electrical maintenance(2)
 8. Woodworker(3)
 9. Bar placer(3)
 10. HAVC worker(2)
 11. Pipe worker(2)
 12. Operator of concrete mix station(6)
 13. Welder-senior(3)
 14. HV Electrician wireman(5)
 15. Electrician wireman□3□
 16. Brick layer(5)
- Major duties
 1. Civil Technician-senior:handling, supervision and direction of civil work in site
 2. Electrical Technician-senior: handling, supervision and direction of electrical work in site
 3. Electro-mechanical Technician-Senior: handling, supervision and direction of Electro-mechanical work in site
 4. Commission director: Directing of Operations and make the station in operation
 5. Heavy Machinery Operator: Operate heavy duty machines (forklift, excavator, crane, trucks, etc).
 6. Mechanical Maintainance: To maintain mechanical equipments .
 7. Electrical Maintainance: To maintain electrical equipments, systems.
 8. Woodworker: To be able to use wood craft and carpenting skills when required
 9. Bar placer: Placing Steel bars as per requirement needs
 10. HAVC worker: installation and operation of Ventilation and air conditioning devices
 11. Pipe worker: installation of pipes
 12. Operator of concrete mix station: Be able to use concrete mixing machines efficiently and finish the job in concrete mix station according to the order
 13. Welder-senior: Be able to welder steel parts as per project requirement
 14. HV electrician wireman: finish the HV electrician work
 15. Electrician wireman: finish the electrical works
 16. Brick Layer: lay bricks of construction
- Knowledge and skills required
 - Full knowledge and skill of required position
 - Be capable to use required tools, instrument and software of construction and drawing for the first 4 positions
 - Good Technical skills of required fields
 - Good communication skill
- Education
 - Bachelor degree for the first 4 positions
- Experience
 - At least 5 years work experience in related fields
- Work place
 - Dekemhare 30MW PV Plant
- Salary
 - According to salary scale of the company
- Vacancy Deadline

- Applications end after 7 days from date of publishing

Additional Requests have fulfilled his/her national obligations and provide certificate of completion or exemption from national service or release paper from the ministry of Defence

Testimonial documents to be attached (CV, work experience credentials, copy of your national identity, release paper from the ministry of Defence)

- Contact us:
 - ❖ Phone number: 184157
 - ❖ Email address: hxzhang1623@ceec.net.cn
 - ❖ P.O.BOX: 1156



Vacancy Announcement

Eritrea Sichuan Mineral Construction CORP. LTD. (ESMC) is inviting applicants for the following position for Asmara project sites.

Position: Document Controller Assistant

Department: Commercial Department

Number Required: 01

Contract Type: Indefinite

Major Duties and Responsibilities

- ❖ Maintain and archive all documents in physical and digital records.
- ❖ Reviewing documents prior to release.
- ❖ Register and document file orderly, ensure that the documents remain legible and identifiable.
- ❖ Copy, Scan and store documents.
- ❖ Check for accuracy and edit files.
- ❖ Distribute project- related copies to internal teams.
- ❖ Manage the flow of documentation within the organization.
- ❖ Ensure that relevant version of applicable documents is available at their point of use.
- ❖ Developing clear goals that are consistent with agreeable strategies.
- ❖ Maintain confidentiality around sensitive information and terms of agreement.
- ❖ Capable of retrieving and monitoring when needed and requested.
- ❖ Keep a record of various files as per different type and unit.
- ❖ Other instructions given by the supervisor.

Qualification and other Skill

Formal education, Certificate or equivalent	❖ Minimum Diploma in Management or minimum 2years' experience in related field.
Work Experience – Nature & Length	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Knowledge of administrative or secretary procedures, managing files and records, designing forms, and other office procedures. ❖ Fluent knowledge of speaking, reading, writing, and listening English. ❖ Knowledge of business and management principles involved in strategic planning, resource allocation, leadership technique, Production methods, and coordination of people and resources.
Leadership Experience - Nature & Length of time	N/A
Other skills and abilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Knowledge of computers and information systems. ❖ Fluent in speaking, reading and writing English. ❖ Attention to details, deliver results according to company procedure and solution oriented. ❖ Team player.

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Vacancy Announcement

Eritrea Sichuan Mineral Construction CORP. LTD. (ESMC), the Construction team is inviting applicants for the following position for Asmara project sites.

1. Electromechanical Equipment Installation Technician
Number required-(06)

Type of Contact – Definite period 01 Year

Major Duties and responsibilities.

- Capable to install equipment and give technical instruction.
- Capable to propose the method and risk assessment for installation.
- Capable to read CAD installation drawing.
- Responsible for quality control and commissioning after installation.

Profile: Qualifications and Experience

Formal Education, Certifications, or Equivalent	- Has abundant of experience about electromechanical equipment installation, better with certificate as Electrician, electromechanical equipment installation.
Working Experience – Nature & length	- At least 8 years of working experience in an electromechanical equipment installation.
Leadership Experience- Nature & length of time	- Demonstrate good supervisory and leadership skills. - Good communication skills in English.
Other skills and abilities	- Ability to work in culturally diverse Working environments.

2. Scaffolding and steel structure installation Technician
Number required-(07)

Type of Contact – Definite period 01 Year

Major Duties and responsibilities.

- Erect and dismantle temporary mental scaffolding on structures and building sites.
- The installation, design and management of the scaffolding and steel structure for construction site and mining equipment maintenance workshop.
- Installing steel girders, pipes, beams and other components to make a steel framework.
- Capable to give technician instruction for installation.

Profile: Qualifications and Experience

Formal Education, Certifications, or Equivalent	- Has abundant of experience about scaffolding and steel structure installation, better with certificate as scaffolder, steel structure installer, riveter, welder and safety officer or working at high place.
Working Experience – Nature & length	- Has sweeping in scaffolding and steel structure installation at least 8 year. - Can work independently plan and count workload as per plan.
Leadership Experience- Nature & length of time	- Demonstrate good supervisory and leadership skills. - Can read installation manual or construction drawing. - Good communication skills in English.
Other skills and abilities	- Ability to work in culturally diverse Working environments.

General Information and Other Requirement

- ❖ Place of Work: Embaderho Sites
- ❖ Salary: As per Company salary scale
- ❖ Type of Contract: Indefinite

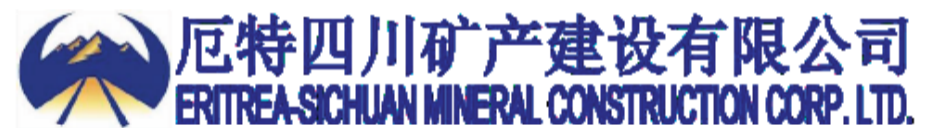
Additional Requirement for Nationals:

- ❖ Having fulfilled his/ her National Service Obligation and Provide evidence of Release Paper from Ministry of Defense.
- ❖ Present Clearance paper from current/ last employer.
- ❖ Testimonial documents to be attached (CV, work experience credential, a copy of your National Identity card etc.)
- ❖ Only shortlisted applicants would be considered as potential candidates for an interview.
- ❖ Application documents will not be returned to sender.
- ❖ All application should be sent through the post office.
- ❖ Deadline for application; 05 days from the date of publication on the newspapers

Address: Please mail your application to;

Eritrea Sichuan Mineral Construction CORP. LTD (ESMC)
P.O. Box. 4832 Asmara, Eritrea
Mineral Resources
P.O. Box 272 Asmara, Eritrea
Note to National Eritrean applicants: Please send a copy of your application to
Aliens Employment permits Affairs
P.O. Box 7940 Asmara, Eritrea

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Vacancy Announcement

Eritrea Sichuan Mineral Construction CORP. LTD. (ESMC) is inviting applicants for the following position for Asmara project sites.

General Information and Other Requirement

- ❖ Place of Work: Asmara Project Sites (Emba Derho)
- ❖ Salary: As per Company salary scale

Additional Requirement for Nationals:

- ❖ Having fulfilled his/ her National Service Obligation and Provide evidence of Release Paper from Ministry of Defense.
- ❖ Present Clearance from current/ last employer or Unemployment card from Labor office.
- ❖ Testimonial documents to be attached (CV, work experience credential, a copy of your National Identity card etc.)
- ❖ Only shortlisted applicants will be considered as potential candidates for an interview.
- ❖ Application documents will not be returned to sender.
- ❖ All application should be sent through the post office.
- ❖ Deadline for application; 05 days from the date of publication on the newspapers

Address: Please mail your application to;

Eritrea Sichuan Mineral Construction CORP. LTD (ESMC)
P.O. Box. 4832 Asmara, Eritrea

Required to send a copy of their application to the following address
Mineral Resources Management, Department of Mines
P.O. Box. 272
Asmara, Eritrea

Note to Eritrean applicants:

Please send a copy of your application to
Aliens Employment permits Affairs,
P.O. Box 7940 Asmara, Eritrea



Q and A

International Conference on Eritrean Studies:

Habtom Tesfamichael

Interviews of Scholars and Activists

Prof. Sarena Masa

Please, introduce yourself and tell us what inspired the establishment of the Adulis Project.

I am a professor of archaeology at the Catholic University of Milan and current president of the Research Center on the Eastern Desert. The Adulis Project was initiated twelve years ago at the request of the Eritrean government, who approached the late Professor Alfredo Castiglioni, my predecessor at the Research Center. With their extensive experience in African archaeology, we embarked on a journey to explore the significance of Adulis, a site that had long been overlooked.

This initiative was driven by a vision to demonstrate the African



Prof. Sarena Masa

continent's connections to renowned civilizations, particularly the Egyptian civilization. Adulis was chosen as a focal point to showcase the archaeological origins of civilization in sub-Saharan Africa. After twelve years of excavation, we are now poised to present a narrative that differs from the traditional accounts.

What is the significance of the project and its impact on revisiting the historical narratives around it?

Historically, many studies have identified the Axumite area as the cradle of urban civilization in the Horn of Africa. However, our findings suggest that Axum rose to prominence after Adulis. This was the central theme of my recent presentation at a conference held with my colleagues. This project is a collaborative effort, involving the Commission of Culture and Sports (CCS), with Dr. Tsegay Medin as co-director and myself as the scientific coordinator. Institutions such as the Polytechnic University of Milan and various other universities are also integral to this initiative.

An essential aspect of our work encompasses environmental studies

surrounding Adulis and conservation efforts for the architecture and artifacts uncovered during excavations. I am honored to present our findings, but it is crucial to acknowledge the numerous Eritrean and Italian collaborators involved in this project.

Can you tell us some of the key findings of your research on the archeology of Adulis?

Our research utilizes both traditional excavation methods and non-destructive techniques such as surface surveys, geophysics, and aerial surveys. Aerial surveys, combined with surface studies, revealed that the site's extent is significantly larger than previously estimated. While earlier estimates suggested an area of approximately 40 hectares, our investigations have uncovered archaeological evidence extending beyond the western limits of the site, on the bed of the Haddas River. This has led to the discovery of new buildings and materials that indicate a much longer history than previously believed.

We have also identified a rich variety of archaeological materials that elucidate the chronological sequence of stratigraphy, demonstrating connections between the Mediterranean, the Persian Gulf, the Indian Ocean, and Egypt. Among our significant discoveries is the earliest known church building in the Horn of Africa, constructed between the late fourth and early fifth centuries. Additionally, while it was previously thought that the main development of Adulis occurred between the third and seventh centuries AD, we have found evidence suggesting that its significance dates back much further.

How does the project engage the local population, and how can the findings contribute to nation-building?

Our project actively engages with local communities through collaboration with the CCS and the Northern Red Sea region administration. Local residents serve as laborers during excavation seasons, and this helps raise their awareness of the site's importance, encouraging them to protect it. We also invite students from local schools to visit the site, where we provide briefings on Adulis's historical significance and our ongoing research.

A key topic discussed at the recently

held conference was the role of national identity in nation-building. Our research project contributes to this conversation by scientifically documenting the archaeological and historical foundations of the nation. My extensive literature review has highlighted the unique characteristics of the Adulis civilization, which developed independently despite its connections to various overseas civilizations, including those from the Mediterranean, the Arabian Peninsula, and Indian cultures. The archaeological evidence of goods exported from the hinterland—such as ivory, turtle shells, and spices—illustrates Adulis's critical role as a nexus of sea and caravan routes.

What are the future goals of the Adulis project?

We have ambitious goals ahead. One of our primary objectives is to establish an archaeological and natural park at Adulis to protect the area from environmental threats like flooding. Additionally, we plan to extend our excavation efforts to explore deeper stratigraphy for a more comprehensive understanding of the site's evolution.

However, we face challenges especially due to the hot climatic conditions of the region, limiting our working months. To address this, we are developing plans for a self-sufficient mission house powered by renewable energy, along with introducing agricultural activities to ensure the project's sustainability.

Your reflections on the conference...

The conference presented a rich tapestry of Eritrean studies across various fields, from the past to the present. I hope for more frequent gatherings of this nature to facilitate the sharing of diverse perspectives and knowledge. Together, we can further enrich our understanding of Eritrea's historical and archaeological heritage.

Daniel Sillas

Please, tell us your background?

I was born and raised in Asmara and later moved to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to further my education. Eventually, I settled in Italy, where I became deeply involved in activism surrounding migration issues.

How did you discover that various entities are profiting from the



Mr. Daniel Sillas

exploitation of migrants?

In my book, I utilized a reversed pyramid structure divided into nine levels, identifying key players involved in the migration crisis, including human traffickers, activists, journalists, politicians, NGOs, and organizations like UNHCR and Amnesty International.

For instance, I highlighted the case of FIAT, which had employed thousands of Italian workers. However, in recent years, the company has shifted to employing migrants in various camps across the country, paying them meager wages. This shift exemplifies how entities exploit vulnerable populations for profit.

You encountered censorship and boycotts. Can you clarify that and how it affected your work?

The publication of my book sparked significant backlash from various sectors. Those involved in the migration business attempted to block its distribution through severe censorship and boycotting efforts. Despite my extensive research and firsthand experiences, attempts were made to discredit my work and silence my voice on the matter.

The efforts to undermine my findings only reinforced my commitment to speak out. I believe it is crucial to expose the hidden hands behind the migration business and shed light on the systemic issues that perpetuate this crisis. My journey from Asmara to Italy has been one of resilience and determination to advocate for those whose stories are often overlooked.

Issayas Kassahun

What was the theme of your presentation and what motivated you to explore the origins of Eurocentric standards of beauty in Eritrea?

The theme of my research presentation was centered on the origins and harmful effects of Eurocentric beauty standards, which I titled "Neo-Colonialism by Any Other Name." This study delves into critical questions about beauty: Who defines what is considered beautiful and attractive? Where do these standards originate, and what impact do they have on our society? Most importantly, how can we address the negative implications of these standards?

I was motivated to explore this issue because human beings possess a unique ability to create and appreciate beauty. However, socio-cultural studies have consistently shown that the standards of beauty are not uniform; they vary widely across cultures and societies. This divergence invites inquiry into how and why Eurocentric beauty standards have become globally dominant.

In the fields of anthropology and archaeology, we are particularly interested in such issues. I recognized that many influences from the Western world represent a new form of colonialism. Although traditional colonialism may have ended, its legacy persists, which drove my desire to study these beauty standards and seek solutions rooted in their origins.

Can you summarize the key findings of your research on the effects of these beauty standards?



Mr. Issayas Kassahun

My anthropological study aimed to unravel the origins and adverse effects of Eurocentric beauty standards in Eritrea. I employed various data collection methods, including classical observational techniques, interviews, and surveys, specifically focusing on Asmara.

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