

REGIONAL REPORT – ETHIOPIA – JULY 2008



Projects & Project Management in Ethiopia

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SMILE ETHIOPIA

I was in a deep sleep of not reading daily newsletters in the country, listening to radio programmes, and watching television news. Then comes a chance to join PM Forum, which has made me wake up from the deep sleep- a sleep that I have been in for a long time. As the saying goes "it is never too late". I started to focus on project related activities being talked about in our fair country, and actually have made headlines in the different domestic news letters. Here is a preview of project related activities that I have gone through in the past month. Your comments are welcome on getdem2006@yahoo.com.

A. Ethiopian Telecommunication Corporation's Millennium Project Becomes Operational

It was the June 10, 2008 edition of *The Ethiopian Herald* that reported that ETC's 1.2 million network capacity millennium project gone operational. The project, which has required 769.6 million Birr, has enabled additional 600,000 subscribers to get access to mobile telephone services. Adurahim Ahmed, ETC's corporate communication general manger (pictured), quoted by *Herald*, has said that " the corporation is currently in expansion work at 17 spots to curb the network congestion that occurred following the launching of the millennium project". It is also found that ETC is undertaking preparations towards implementing a third generation mobile project.



B. Integrated Land Information System for the Capital



The June 15, 2008 issue of *Addis Fortune* has reported that Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia, is going to have an Integrated Land Information System to monitor city changes with a cost of 73.8 Million Birr.

The project implementing body is the Addis Ababa Land Development and Administration Authority (AALDAA). It is expected that, the new system would solve many land related problems

of the metropolis.

C. Germany to Give 96 Million Euros in Support of Different Development Projects.

The June 18, 2008 *Daily Monitor*, has reported that the government of Germany will be providing 96 million Euros in the coming three years in support of different development projects in the areas of capacity building, good governance, land management and basic services. Of the total, 75 million Euros will be going to engineering capacity building, urban governance and sustainable land management, the three priority areas of bilateral cooperation.

D. Ethiopia's Economy is Vibrant and Healthy

It was Justin Lin, chief economist and vice president for development economics of the World Bank group (Pictured), quoted by *Daily Monitor* on June 8, 2008, who confirms that the Ethiopian economy is healthy and vibrant, after concluding four-day official visit in Ethiopia.



Meanwhile he has commented that "the country shall work relentlessly in improving the backward farming system of her farmers so as to improve the food security status of the country.

For more on this, have a look at www.worldbank.org/et

E. MIDROC Suspends the Work of the Cement Factory

It was *Ethiopian Reporter*, June 14 issue, which reported that Debra-MIDROC Cement PLC has suspended the construction work on the cement factory due to financial constraints.



CNBM International Corporation

China National Building Materials (CNBM) was the company hired by Debra for the civil Works of the factory, which is being constructed at 123.42 hectares of land at 70 km north of Addis Ababa with an excepted daily production rate of 7,000 tones. Though the civil works were commenced as of Debra's payment of 19.5 million dollars to CNBM, which was part of the 30% advance payment agreed. Since the remaining part of the advance payment is not paid work is suspended. Though the project was supposed to be finished in 24 months, it is taught that the suspension may affect the project duration.

F. World Bank to provide 325 million USD in Loan and Grant

Ethiopia and the World Bank Group has signed five loan and grant agreements providing 325 million dollars. 150 million USD of it will be vested to implement urban local government project. 80 million dollar grant and loan will be allocated to implement the second phase of pastoral community development project. 45 million USD will be allocated to Tana and Beles integrated water resource development project. 30 million will go to a nutrition project, while the balance 20 million will be extended to a project aiming to reduce land degradation in agricultural land scapes and restore ecosystem functions there by enhance agricultural productivity.

G. A Pioneering Sustainable Energy Project Award for Gaia

It is the June 22, 2008 edition of *capital*, which clued-up that Gaia Association, an Ethiopian civic association working with UNHCR in Kebrebeyah Refugee Camp near Ethio-Somalia border, has got awarded 20,000 pounds for a **world leading green energy prize** by the *Ashden Awards Prize*. The project aims at transforming the biomass reliant energy use of the refugee camp to a more environmentally friendly one by distributing stoves that use ethanol fuel as a source of energy.



Other winners in the world leading energy prizes were TIDE (Technology Informatics Design Endeavor) an Indian initiative which won a title "Energy Champion" with a prize worth 40,000 pounds, Brazil's *Cooperativa regional de eletrificacao rural do alto urguai itda*, china's *Renewable Energy Development Project*, India's *Aryavert Gramin Bank*, Tanzania's *kisangari Smith Group*, Uganda's *Fruits of the Nile* and Bangladesh's *Guramean Shakti*.

H. Ethiopia's Road Development Programme wins Prestigious World Bank Good Practice Award

It was on June 3, 2008 at ceremony held at the World Bank's Preston Auditorium that was announced that the Ethiopian Road Sector Development Programme(RSDP) won a prestigious Good Practice Award from the world Bank's Independent Evaluation Group(IEG).



According to Dr. Samuel Assefa, Ethiopia's Ambassador to United States "The award signifies the importance of directing the Bank's support to sectors that significantly contribute towards accelerating a sustained and people-

centered economic development".

45 practitioners that took part in the Programme have received awards while the Programme got a high praise in the ceremony. It is understood that the IEG's good practice award recognizes strong performers in design, implementation, and/or monitoring and evaluation, and contribution to positive development outcomes.

I. Mr. *Getachew Teklemariam* to be one of the panel of speakers on the *strategic project management* conference to be held in Pretoria, South Africa

Mr. Getachew Teklemariam, an international correspondent for *PM Forum*, and *Pmworldtoday*, to be one of the panel of speakers on the strategic Project management conference to be held in Pretoria, south Africa. The conference which is to be organized by *Business zone*, a leading south African Business conference, training and networking events organizer, will be held on 25-26, August 2008 in the south African Reserve Bank Conference Center. Of the 11 panel of renowned project professional speakers, Mr. Getachew, will be speaking on the title "Risk Management and Project Planning: Could they make a good couple?"

Mr. Getachew will discuss in detail about the concept of risk and its position in the project context, on how to systemically identify risks, analyzing risks, risk response opportunities and project planning, and on how to include risk management methodologies in project planning, with specific examples from infrastructure sector, where he has enormous experience.

For more on the conference <http://www.businesszone.co.za> and for registration and matters thereof send e-mail info@businesszone.co.za.

Don't you think that my wake-up status is better than the hibernation that I had been in for a long time? If yes, I do agree with you. I will continue to update you with project related activities in Ethiopia with another *Smile Ethiopia* edition.

Yes, Smile Ethiopia!!!! Wish you all a good PM Month.

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