

**H.E. Ambassador Seyoum delivers a Keynote statement on a Seminar organized to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the OAU/AU in China.**

Ethiopian Embassy, Beijing, 25 May 2013



H.E. Mr. Seyoum Mesfin, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ethiopia to China, delivered the Keynote speech representing the Current Chair of the African Union, on Friday, May 24, 2013. He stated that “Pan-Africanism” is a motto associated with people centered African unity and solidarity in the struggle against many historical adversities that visited the People of Africa. But when coupled with “Renaissance”, it encapsulates the aspiration of Africa for unity in diversity, prosperity and peace.

H.E. Mr Zhong Jianhua, Special Representative of the Chinese Government to African Affairs delivered a speech on the occasion. He spoke on Africa-China relations and expounded on China’s policy and interest towards Africa. He referred to the historic roots of the relations between the peoples of Africa and China and highlighted on the existing friendship and partnership based on mutual benefit and understanding.

The African Ambassadors Group in the People’s Republic of China is organizing a series of events to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the Organization of African Unity/ African Union (OAU/AU) under the theme Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance. The Golden Jubilee will be celebrated throughout the year in China. In this regard, Ambassador Seyoum, also the Chairperson of the African Ambassadors Group, has called on all stakeholders to continue to work closely to commemorate the Anniversary.

African and Chinese officials, diplomats, scholars, the media, African students in China and other friends of Africa took part in the one-day Seminar on May 24, 2013. The Golden Jubilee will also be colorfully celebrated at a Gala Dinner the next day (25th), in the presence of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education of Ethiopia, H.E. Mr. Demeke Mekonnen and Honourable Mr. Zhang Dejiang, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China as Guests of Honour.

The celebration of the Golden Jubilee in China is the biggest outside of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, where the AU is headquartered. The magnitude of the commemoration of the Jubilee in Beijing is a clear indicator of the growing and strategic partnership between Africa and China.

The Golden Jubilee is being celebrated in Addis Ababa with different events. The Heads of State and Government from Africa and other countries including the People’s Republic of China are arriving in Addis Ababa to take part in the celebrations.