

Ethiopian Prime Minister`s Official Visit to China

Ethiopia Embassy, Beijing, 19 June 2013- H.E. Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn concluded his official visit to the People`s Republic of China from 12-16 June 2013 and departed for London in the early hours of Sunday 16 June, to take part at the G8 Summit.



Upon arrival at the Beijing International Airport, he was welcomed by Chinese Government Officials, the Ethiopian Embassy Staff and representatives of the Ethiopian Community in Beijing.

During his visit Prime Minister Hailemariam held separate meetings with H.E. President Xi Jinping, H.E. Premier. Li Keqiang, H.E. Mr. Zhang Dejiang, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People`s Congress (NPC) and Mr. Wang Jiarui, Minister for International Department of the Communist Party of China (CPC).

He also held several meetings with the Exim Bank and Development Bank of China as well as businesses executives.



H.E. Prime Minister Hailemariam was given a warm official reception by H.E. Premier Li Keqiang in a ceremony held at the Great Hall of the People on Thursday 13 June. The National Anthems of the two countries were played and the two leaders inspected the guard of honour.

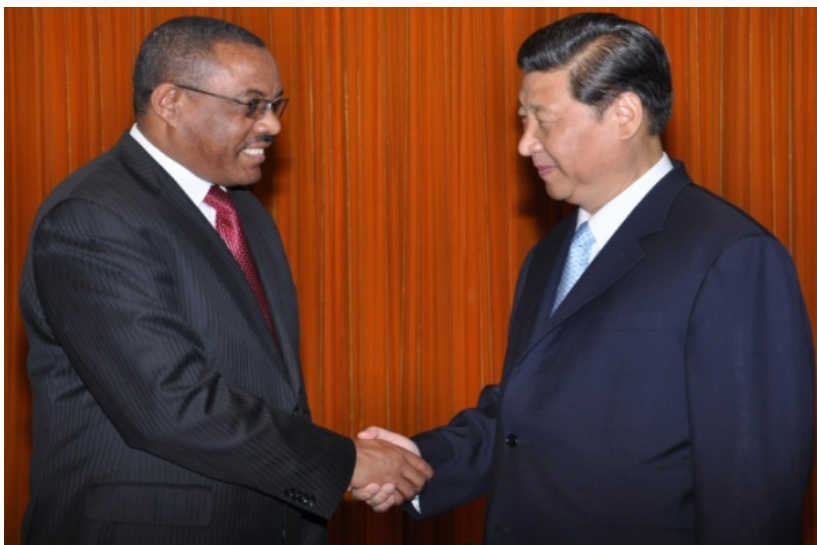
The delegations led by the two leaders held an extensive discussion on bilateral, regional and multilateral issues. Prime Minister Hailemariam expressed

gratitude to his host for the all rounded partnership between the two countries and for the support given by China to Ethiopia's development.

Premier Li on his part said China will continue to support Ethiopia's development efforts and continue to encourage Chinese companies to invest in Ethiopia. While taking the long standing excellent bilateral relations into consideration, they agreed that it is high time to take the relations between the two countries to a new height. To this effect, the Foreign Ministries on each side were given the assignment to look into and identify ways to further strengthen the relations.

The cooperation between the two countries had shown significant growth since a comprehensive cooperation agreement was signed ten years ago.

Prime Minister Hailemariam, in his capacity as the Current Chairperson of the African Union, briefed Premier Li on the outcomes of the recent Summit of African Union and on the overall activities of the Organization.



On Friday, 14 June Prime Minister Hailemariam held a meeting with H.E. President Xi Jinping, at the Great Hall of the People. During the meeting both leaders expressed satisfaction at the growing bilateral cooperation and renewed

their commitments to continue to work closely in the spirit of mutual respect, mutual benefit and win-win cooperation. In addition to extensive exchanges on bilateral issues, Prime Minister Hailemariam, as the current chair of the AU Assembly, briefed his host on developments in the African continent. He expressed appreciation for the FOCAC framework of cooperation, and

underlined the need for the continued engagement of China in critical development sectors as well as in the peace and security area.

President Xi Jinping on his part said that China will continue to strengthen the historical friendship and strategic partnership with Africa, emphasizing that Africa should be in charge of its own destiny without undue interference in its internal affairs, and that China will continue to nurture principled cooperation with Africa. The two leaders reiterated that the bilateral relations are deep rooted and excellent, and agreed that it is high time to elevate the relations to even new height. The respective Foreign Ministries were given the task of working out modalities.

In the meeting held with Honourable Zhang Dejiang, on Friday 14 June, Prime Minister Hailemariam highlighted the close partnership between the parliaments of the two countries which expresses itself in active Parliamentary Friendship Groups. He said he will brief the Speakers of the two houses of the Ethiopian Parliament on the outcomes of his meeting with Honourable Zhang.



He also suggested the possibility of partnership between the Pan-African Parliament and the National People's Congress as an important aspect of the continuously growing China-Africa partnership. He stressed that Africa and China should continue to

strengthen cooperation for the benefit of a better global order.

He expressed gratitude for China's support for the development of Ethiopia in particular and Africa in general. He expressed satisfaction over Chinese

partnership and noted how China has a good record of delivering on its promises.

Chairman Zhang said China attaches great importance to the relations with Ethiopia. The comprehensive cooperation agreement which was signed in 2003 has helped in enhancing the overall partnership between the two countries and the relationship stands as a shining example of South-South cooperation.

He recalled the participation of a delegation led by the Vice Premier of China H.E. Mr. Wang Yang at the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Organization of African Unity/African Union in Addis Ababa and his own participation in the celebration held in Beijing as the Guest of Honour. He underlined that this is an indicator of the importance China gives to its relations with Ethiopia and Africa.

He said China will never forget the support of Africa after the revolution. “The African People shouldered us all the way to the Security Council”.

Prime Minister Hailemariam also held separate meetings with Chinese financial institutions and discussed on possibilities of further strengthening ties.

In the several meetings held with different businesses, Prime Minister Hailemariam reiterated that Ethiopia is ready to welcome Chinese investors. He noted that Ethiopia is partnering with the China Association of Development Zones in order to formulate a clear policy towards developing Ethiopia’s Special Economic Zones and Industrial Parks. He said Ethiopia will continue to encourage Chinese companies to invest in a cluster in the designated Special Economic Zones and develop Industrial Parks.



Prime Minister Hailemariam delivered a speech at the Beijing Foreign Studies University on the theme “Africa-China New Strategic Partnership and Friendship for Development and Transformation”.

In his speech he expounded on the rationale that under pin Africa China partnership to qualify as “New Strategic Partnership”. He said the relation between Africa and China is based on win-win cooperation for mutual benefit.

On the occasion he unveiled the African Studies Center of the University and planted a tree in the premises of the University as a symbol of a growing and live partnership.