



ERI-NEWS



*Bi-Weekly Newsletter
Prepared by the Press Section of the
Permanent Mission of the State of Eritrea to AU
and UNECA*

President Isaias Held Talks with Chinese Communist Party Delegation

A high-level delegation from the People's Republic of China (PRC) Communist Party, headed by Mr. Cui Shaopeng, Deputy Minister of State in the Commission Office of Public Sector Reforms, held talks with President Isaias Afwerki and senior PFDJ officials in Sawa, Eritrea.



During the meeting held on 14 July, President Isaias underlined the significance of developing the existing relations between the Chinese Communist Party and the PFDJ as well as the two governments to the highest level.

President Isaias further underscored the PRC's responsibility to work for the realization of justice, peace and stability in the region and at global level. Noting that relations between Eritrea and the PRC is strategic and based on mutual understanding and cooperation, the PRC delegation expressed resolve

to work for higher cooperation in all sectors.

In the second day of the visit, Mr. Hagos Gebrehiwet, Head of PFDJ Economic Affairs, gave briefing on the political and economic situation in Eritrea as well as front and government relations.

Following exchange of views and experiences, the two sides reached understanding to develop relations between the two countries. Present at the meeting were Mr. Yang Zigang, PRC Ambassador to Eritrea and other Embassy members.

Newly Constructed College of Sciences Handed Over

The handing over of the newly constructed College of Sciences at Mai Nefhi by the Chinese Civil Engineering Construction Corporation at a cost of 25 million dollars was conducted on 27 July. The construction of the College building was in accordance with the agreement concluded in 2014 between

the Governments of Eritrea and the People's Republic of China.

Speaking at the ceremony in which senior Government and PFDJ officials, the Chinese Ambassador and the Chairman of the Chinese Civil Engineering Construction Corporation were present,

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Eritrea Strives to Address the Negative Effects of Climate Change

Geographically, Eritrea is located in the Sahel region which is prone to drought and erratic rainfall. This situation is aggravated by climate change. Hence, sustainable land management issues assume great importance for countries like Eritrea whose economies highly depend on agriculture.

Taking this reality into account, the Government of Eritrea, right after independence, massively invested in the agriculture sector in order to restore, sustain and enhance the productive functions of the country's natural ecosystem resources. Community-based afforestation and soil and water conservation have become routine activities of the people, and the government aims at conserving and rehabilitating the land that has been degraded due to climatic conditions, deforestation, overgrazing, overcultivation, soil erosion and decline of soil fertility. Research shows that managing land more sustainably reduces the rate of degradation.



Students have been engaged for more than 20 years in afforestation and soil and water conservation programs in their summer break, and many students have been organized in green clubs to promote tree planting in their school premises.

To strengthen the land rehabilitation programs in a systematic and vigorous way, the Government of Eritrea declared a greening campaign on May 15 2006, at a national greening conference attended by H.E. Isaias Afwerki, President of the State of Eritrea. As per the resolution of the conference, all Eritrean regions are involved in various land rehabilitation campaigns mainly in soil and water conservation as well as tree planting activities. During the national greening day, the campaign's performance in all reg-

ions of the country is thoroughly assessed and awards are given to exemplary individuals and institutions.

Declared a greening campaign on 15 May 2006;
through the Campaign 41 million trees
planted on 16,000 hectares of land;
Distributed 150,000 energy saving stoves;
Put under enclosure 300,000 hectares of land;
Constructed 600 reservoirs;
Treated by soil and water conservation schemes
100,000 hectares of farm land, boosting
agricultural production by 30- 40%

Thanks to this campaign, so far more than 41 million trees have been planted on 16,000 hectares of land. More than 150,000 energy saving stoves have been distributed all over the country. Permanent and temporary enclosures are increasing in number; and farmers are benefiting by feeding their animals by cut and carry system. More than 300,000 hectares of land is under enclosure.

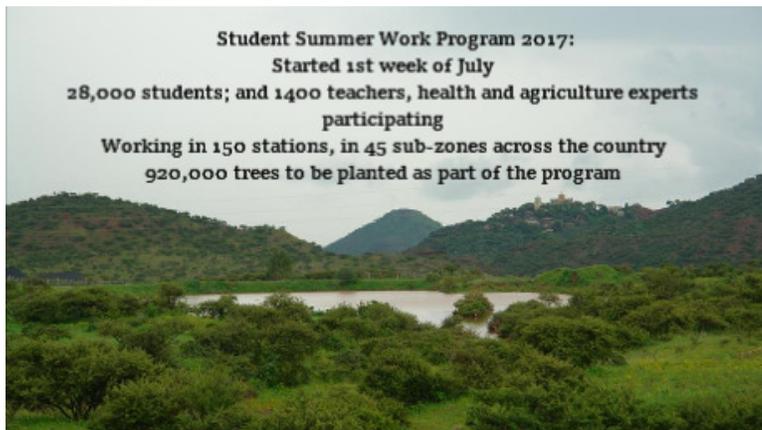


To address the negative effects of climate change, the government of Eritrea has been involved in soil and water conservation schemes and construction of dams and diversion structures. Over 600 different sized water reservoirs have been constructed in the past 26 years.

To optimize the utilization of harvested water and increase cycles of crop production, irrigation equipment producing factory has been built and started production. *Contd. on page 3*



Eritrea Strives to Address the Negative Effects... (Contd. from page 2)



enhance productivity of the land. The farmers, satisfied with the outcome of these activities, are now replicating these activities. Nationally about 100,000 hectares of farm land has been treated by various soil and water conservation schemes, which boosted production by 30- 40 percent.

Through endeavours undertaken all over the country the government and the people of Eritrea are demonstrating their commitment to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality by 2030. The government is also committed to involve all relevant sectors to meet the target. That’s why Eritrea signed the UNCCD in 1995 and ratified the convention in 1996.

Moreover, farmers are introducing contour farming and farmland levelling to conserve soil and water to

Newly Constructed College of Sciences... (Contd. from page 1)

Mr. Semere Russom, Minister of Education, said that the construction task attests to the existing strong relations between Eritrea and the PRC.

Mr. Yang Zigang, the PRC Ambassador to Eritrea, equally pointed out that the project was a continuation of the existing cooperation between the two countries in different sectors in general and education in particular. He further commended the integrated effort demonstrated on the part of Eritrean and Chinese workers.



Prof. Gebrehiwet Medhanie, Vice President of Academic Affairs at the Eritrean Institute of Techno-

logy, stated that the new building will make significant contribution in producing advanced human resource both in quality and quantity.

Similarly, the Chairman of the Chinese Civil Engineering Construction Corporation, Mr. Yuan Li, expressed pride for participating in Eritrea’s national development programs and handed certificates of merit to exemplary Eritrean and Chinese workers.

The seven-block new building was constructed on 37,979 square meters and comprises administration rooms, laboratory, conference halls, libraries, and class rooms, among others. The building has a capacity of accommodating about six thousand students.

The Colleges of Engineering and Education will be expanded in the next phase in similar fashion.

AUC Congratulated Eritrea on the Inscription of Asmara on the World Heritage List

The African Union Commission (AUC) congratulated Eritrea on the inscription of Asmara on the World Heritage List, during the 41st session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee meeting held in the first half of July 2017.

Likewise, the Commission extended its congratulatory message to Angola and South Africa, the other two African countries whose cultural sites were inscribed on the List during the same session.

In its congratulatory letter, the AUC noted that the promotion, preservation and popularization of African Heritage Sites is in line with the AU Agenda 2063, in particular Aspiration 5 on Culture and Heritage.



Eritrea Actively Participating in the UN Process of Developing the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

As the intergovernmental thematic consultations towards developing the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration is proceeding in full swing, Eritrea is actively contributing to the process, including through sharing of its rich and innovative experience on the matter.

The Chargé d'affaires of the Permanent Mission of Eritrea to the United Nations, Mr. Amanuel Giorgio, moderated one of the three panels organized in the framework of the thematic session on '*Contributions of migrants and diasporas to all dimensions of sustainable development, including remittances and portability of earned benefits,*' held on 24 and 25 July 2017 at the UN Headquarters in New York.

The Panel moderated by Mr. Amanuel discussed key economic and financial dimensions of migration and development, including remittances, and highlighted ways to reduce the transfer costs associated with migrant remittances as well as ways to maximize the impact of remittances on sustainable development, including through enhancing the financial literacy and inclusion of remittance recipients and their families. The discussion highlighted the portability of earned benefits, including ways to ensure such measures through bilateral or multilateral agreements.

In his introductory remark, Mr. Amanuel stressed that the global compact should not be an action geared towards promoting international migration, but rather to map out a common strategy for a safe, orderly and regular migration, including by addressing root causes of displacements. He further noted that the Eritrean diaspora community as part of the Eritrean society is included in the development strategy of Eritrea.

Furthermore, Mr. Issayas Tesfamariam, a member of the Eritrean Diaspora community in US and Lecturer at the African and Middle Eastern Languages at Stanford University, was one of the three speakers on the Panel that dealt with 'the multiple aspects and concrete contributions of migrants and diasporas to sustainable development'.

In his remarks, Mr. Issayas highlighted the key challenges, solutions and best practices to enhance the contribution of the African Diaspora to the continent's development, drawing lessons from the multifaceted contribution of the Eritrean Diaspora towards nation building. He cited several exemplary projects undertaken by the Eritrean Diaspora in their homeland, including through the provision of E-readers to students, teaching and medical services, investment, remittances and so on.