

Staatenlos ?

Ein Äthiopier berichtet

Ich war Äthiopier seit meiner Geburt, aber ich bin in Asmara geboren, weil sich meine Eltern zur Zeit meiner Geburt aus beruflichen Gründen in Eritrea aufhielten. Diese Tatsache führte jetzt dazu, daß ich keinen äthiopischen Pass mehr bekomme. Wieso?

Meine Familie

Mein Vater ist in Addis Abeba geboren, meine Mutter in Arsi/Assela. Meine Großeltern auf mütterlicher Seite kommen aus Eritrea und Dessie/Wello. Mein Großvater der väterlichen Seite ist in Addis Abeba geboren, der Geburtsort meiner Oma ist nicht bekannt. Die Herkunft meiner Urgroßeltern ist zum großen Teil nicht bekannt. Ein Teil kommt aus Gondar und Eritrea. Verwandtschaftliche Bindungen habe ich zu Tigre, Amhara, Gurage, Oromo, und Nachfahren aus Verbindungen der unterschiedlichen Volksgruppen. Außerdem lebt ein Teil meiner Familie in U.S.A., Nigeria, Israel, Spanien, Deutschland. Auch hier sind Kinder aus den Verbindungen der unterschiedlichen Nationalitäten entstanden.

Meine Geschichte

Nach zwei Jahren Aufenthalt in Eritrea, ich war damals zwei Monate alt, zogen meine Eltern zurück nach Addis Abeba. Seitdem lebte ich dort, ging ich zur Schule, besuchte ich die Universität und arbeitet später in einem größeren äthiopischen Unternehmen. Alle meine älteren Geschwister sind in Addis Abeba geboren und dort groß geworden. Ich hatte wundervolle Freunde deren Volkszugehörigkeit ich nicht kannte und die damals nicht wichtig war.

Die Grabstätten mehrerer Generationen meiner Familie befinden sich in Addis Abeba.

Mir stellt sich die Frage, zu welchem Volk, welcher Rasse, Staat oder Nation, soll/muß ich mich bekennen und einordnen? Ich weiß, daß ich alle in mir verkörpere und daher nicht rassistisch, ethnisch oder nationalistisch zugeordnet werden kann. Ich kann aber mit Sicherheit sagen „ICH BIN HABESHA“.

Wenn immer ich aufgefordert werde, meine Ethnie oder meine Volkszugehörigkeit zu sagen, komme ich in große Schwierigkeiten und ich weiß nicht, was ich wirklich antworten soll.

Ist entscheidend

- wo ich geboren bin?
- wo ich aufgewachsen bin?
- wo ich lebe?
- welchen Pass ich habe?

oder wird mir diese Frage nur gestellt, um mich in eine Schublade einzurichten und - falls nötig - zu meinem Nachteil anzuwenden?

Jedesmal wenn ein Äthiopier mich nach meiner Herkunft fragt, versuche ich dies ihm/ihr zu erklären. Leider stelle ich nachher fest, daß ich dann als Eritäer abgestempelt werde. Und wenn umgekehrt mir ein Eritäer diese Frage stellt, werde ich bei gleicher Antwort als Amhara abgestempelt.

In den letzten acht Jahren habe ich häufig von Freunden und Bekannten schmerzlich zu spüren bekommen, daß die Freundschaft, wegen meiner

angeblichen Volkszugehörigkeit sehr beeinträchtigt wurde. Man hat auch versucht, mir klarzumachen, daß ich zum Thema Äthiopien nichts zu sagen oder zu äußern habe.

Momentan befindet sich mich in einer sehr schwieriger Situation. Die äthiopische Staatsangehörigkeit, der ich geglaubt habe anzugehören, ist mir weggenommen worden, obwohl ich seit acht Jahren einen äthiopischen Nationalpass besaß. Die Begründung der äthiopischen Botschaft: Meine äthiopische Staatsangehörigkeit ist „NICHT NACHWEISBAR“.

Die Botschaft kann sogar Recht haben.

In einem Land, wo viele Völker zusammen leben, wo der Stammbaum nicht bekannt ist und es kein Familienbuch gibt, wo kaum Geburtsurkunden nach der Geburt erstellt werden und wenn erstellt, dann nicht sorgfältig aufbewahrt werden und, wo die Menschen die Namen und Herkunft ihrer Vorfahren nicht wissen oder erinnern. Wie kann man behaupten und nachweisen ein Äthiopier zu sein?

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Aber ich bin somit quasi staatenlos und muß ein deutsches Paßersatzpapier beantragen. Die deutschen Behörden sind aber der Meinung, daß ich ja dann eine eritreische Staatsangehörigkeit beantragen kann. Für sie ist dies kein Problem, aber für mich schon. Ich bin kein Eritreer, habe dort nie gelebt, habe dort keine Beziehungen und möchte auch, falls sich die Situation am Horn mal ändert nicht nach Eritrea, sondern nach Äthiopien zurückkehren. Dort lebt meine Familie, dort werde ich vielleicht mal deren Erbe antreten.

Warum das alles?

Die jetzigen politischen und wirtschaftlichen Konflikte, sowie die Grenzkonflikte, mögen ein Streitpunkt zwischen zwei Staaten (Regierungen) sein, aber muß/soll es deswegen auch ein Konflikt zwischen den Völkern sein? Völker, die in vieler Hinsicht Geschwister sind, die eine verflochtene Geschichte haben, die eine gemeinsame Schrift und Sprache, Religion, Tradition und Kultur pflegen. Und - last but not least - muß es ein Konflikt zwischen UNS, den Kindern dieser Völker sein, die wir mehrere Millionen zählen? Die Politiker beider Länder benutzen die Menschen als gefühllose Gegenstände, um ihre Ehre zu verteidigen und ihre Macht über wehrlose Menschen zum Ausdruck zu bringen.

Leider haben sie es mit großem Erfolg erreicht, Feindschaft und Hass zwischen den Völkern zu säen und zu schüren. Die gegenseitige Feindschaft und die damit verbundene Unterdrückung der machtlosen Minderheiten im In- und Ausland stärkt die Regierung beider Seiten und lenkt von innenpolitischen Schwierigkeiten ab.

Leider ist die Feindschaft nicht nur in den Ländern geblieben, wo sie täglich angeheizt und durch Propaganda am Leben erhalten wird. Nein, sie ist auch in großer Breite und Masse ins Ausland weiter getragen worden. Die Propaganda und das Sammeln von Geldern für die Kriegskasse läuft immer noch auf in Hochkonjunktur. Der Krieg hat in der letzten 3 Jahren schon mehrere zehntausend Opfer gefordert. Und mehrere Hunderttausende werden es sein, wenn dieser Krieg weiter getragen wird? Und wer sind die Leidtragenden?

Ich glaube - ohne wenn und aber - wir alle!!!

Families in the wrong direction

Getachew Abate

In the background of the war between Ethiopia and Eritrea stands a large number of victims. These are the people of the two countries. It has affected not only individual's life inside, but as a result of the ongoing war contacts, friendships, neighborhoods, interactions, and overall every aspect of social relationships between Eritreans and Ethiopians are broken. This has led people in both countries to establish a new identity that further eliminates the other, and a culture of hate, ignorance, avoidance and historical distortion is emerging and expanding. That is happening not only at home but at an expanding rate between Ethiopians and Eritreans living abroad.

Obviously, in this troubled and highly divisible period of time, these developments do not bring any solution to our common problems. All types of individual and group efforts are thus necessary to control the situation. As it has been the culture and tradition of the two peoples for the last many centuries, it must be love to each other, friendship, support, availability for the other whenever there is a need, and intellectual nourishment that should help to solve the problems between Eritreans and Ethiopians. Having hate and doubt in our hearts, we can't go very far to come together. In this particular moment we need to be open, and see things differently, think differently, feel differently, altogether behave differently. Let's do that and step into a new role to discuss and find out solu-

tions to our common problems. It is in fact a slow and difficult process. But I am sure there are Ethiopians and Eritreans who recognize the depthness of the problem, and who do not sit in embarrassed silence till the situation further worsens. So let's cancel the fault line and work together to find out the way that would help us understand each other better.

Role of Indigenous Knowledge in conflict Resolution

From The Ethiopian Herald, WIC 07/02/2000

The First General Conference of the Association for the Promotion of Indigenous Knowledge in Ethiopia was recently held at the Ghion Hotel. At the conference, sponsored by the British Embassy in Addis Ababa, a number of papers were presented. One of the papers with the above headline was presented

Impressum

Herausgeber:
Deutsch-Äthiopischer Verein e.V.
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34131 Kassel, Tel.: 0561-36210
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Die „Blätter“ des Deutsch-Äthiopischen Vereins erscheinen ca. 3 mal im Jahr.
Die Unkostenbeteiligung pro Ausgabe beträgt 10,- DM incl. Porto, das Abonnement 30,-DM. Mitglieder bekommen die „Blätter“ kostenlos. Namentlich gekennzeichnete Artikel geben nicht unbedingt die Meinung des Vereins wieder.
Spendenkonto: Postbank Hamburg
BLZ 20010020, Kto. 1680-201

by Ato Yohannes Berhane, a social anthropologist and dramatist now working at the National Theatre.
Ato Yohannes' paper is a background sketch to the current major features of

the rural Amhara Shemgelena (moot) structure as well as the ideas relevant to the administration of conflicts outside the court. The most prominent and indigenous institution of the rural Amhara in resolving conflicts is Shemgelena. It is the assembly of Yehager Shemagelle (elder of the land) by which the services of a third party is used as a means of helping the conflicting parties to reduce the extent of their differences and disagreements, and arrive at an amicable settlement.

In his paper, Ato Yohannes has attempted to explain the following questions: Why do the rural Amhara prefer Shemgelena to the court? Who are the people in the local community who employ these mechanisms on litigants? What is the basis of their ability to do so? What precise steps do litigants follow from the beginning of a conflict to its settlement? What are the major criteria for an individual to be selected as Yehager Shemagelle? What is the attitude of the entire community towards this mechanism? What basic role do religion and kinship play in Shemgelena?

Ato Yohannes also argues that conflict resolution in rural Amhara is based on public opinion and cultural consensuses.

"Shemgelena," noted Ato Yohannes, "is patrimonial, it is a male dominated institution. The participation of women in Shemgelena is insignificant in the Amhara rural areas. But, nevertheless, women can participate in Shemgelena as witnesses or representing their own case. Culturally, membership for women in Shemgelena seems inadmissible. In spite of this, it has got its own constitution or law known as Yabat Hager Hig (law of the land)."

He also said Yabat Hager Hig that is applied among the rural community is not reduced to writing. It is transmitted from generation to generation by word of mouth. It is a law that is inherited from our fathers and forefathers. It is not articulated neither defined nor formalized. But it is inextricably entwined with the religious, the cultural, the political and the socio-economic structure of rural community. It has become a purpose of function because of the fact people live in it and practice it.

Yabat Hager Hig is a set of norms created as a distinct system for actors by actors who involve in it. It is not static but flexible. Whenever any socio-economic change appears in the society Yabat Hager Hig has also the chance to change in accordance with the prevailing socio-economic changes that takes place in the society.

Shemgelena is private and confidential. It is conducted at a private place like the churchyard. And it has iconic and indexical relationship with the church conducting Shemgelena in the churchyard has a lot to do with the symbolic interpretation of the society. It is not only representational, it is also existential.

Shemgelena is voluntary. Although it is sometimes initiated by friends, neighbours, kin groups or the elders themselves continuity in Shemgelena needs voluntary basis

"The Other thing" observed Ato Yohannes, "Shemgelena is also informal. Members use day-to-day language. They do not need to trace over tools that are practiced in the juro-political institutions."

The other point that Ato Yohannes mentioned is that Shemgelena is not negotiation. It is neither mediation nor arbitration or adjudication. It is rather reconciliation. Therefore, the final result of Shemgelena is reconciling the contending parties.

Angesichts der derzeitigen Situation in Äthiopien und Eritrea bleibt jedem vernunftsbegabten Menschen nur die Verzweiflung, wenn er sich die immense Ressourcenverschwendungen und das Elend vor Augen führt, welches durch diesen unnötigen Krieg verursacht wird. Der Redaktion flatterte vor einigen Tagen eine Stellungnahme der äthiopischen Botschaft in Berlin zu den Äußerungen Kofi Annans bezüglich der Hungerkatastrophe in Äthiopien in den Briefkasten. Auch wenn einige Details hinsichtlich der verliehenen Getreiderückstellungen, die von Nachbarländern nicht rechtzeitig wieder aufgefüllt wurden, stimmen mögen (bestätigt wurde dies von Care international, nachzulesen in einem Artikel bei www.africanews.org), so sind diese Worte nicht das Papier wert, auf dem sie geschrieben wurden, solange die Beziehung zwischen Krieg und Hunger negiert werden. Auch an der eritreischen Regierung können wir kein einziges gutes Haar lassen.

Umso mehr verwundert es uns mit anzusehen, wie sich viele Angehörige der verschiedenen Volksgruppen am Horn von Afrika sogar im Exil das Leben gegenseitig schwer machen können. Allerdings jetzt, beim Anblick der bedrückenden Bilder z.B. aus dem Ogaden, sollte klar sein, daß jede politische Agitation, jede Geldsammlung, überhaupt jeder Gedanke in die nachhaltige Linderung der Armut in dieser Region gehen muß. Es kann nicht sein, daß sich die vielen Völker in Eritrea und Äthiopien von verbohrten und herrschsüchtigen politischen Eliten auseinanderdividieren lassen. Vor allem die Personen, die diesen Ländern den Rücken kehren (aus welchen Gründen auch immer) und zum Beispiel in Deutschland eine Bleibe gefunden haben, sollten gemeinsam gegen diesen Wahnsinn zu Felde ziehen. Wir sind froh, daß es zahlreiche Äthiopier und Eritreer gibt, die genau dies wollen und tun.

Als Deutsch-Äthiopischer Verein e.V. rufen wir alle Menschen - egal welcher Nationalität - auf, Aktionen zu planen und zu unterstützen, die der Verständigung zwischen den Völkern am Horn von Afrika dienen. Wir rufen dazu auf, den verantwortlichen Regierungen in Äthiopien und Eritrea zu verdeutlichen, daß die derzeitige Propaganda sowohl von Deutschen als auch von Exilertreern und Exiläthiopiern abgelehnt wird. Wir fordern vor allem alle in Deutschland lebenden Äthiopier und Eritreer auf, sich gemeinsam für ein Miteinander im Kampf gegen Krieg, Hunger, politischer Verfolgung und Unterentwicklung stark zu machen. Die Mitglieder des DÄV begrüßen alle Aktionen in dieser Richtung und bieten ihre Unterstützung an. Für Vorschläge, Projekte, etc. sind wir immer zu haben und wir würden uns freuen, neue Ideen in die Tat umzusetzen zu können.

Die Redaktion des DÄV

Nachrichten aus Äthiopien

zusammengestellt von Harmen Storck

Conflict with Eritrea

Proposals for Conflict Resolution:

In diplomatic circles, the Ethiopian and Eritrean situation is believed to have gone on far too long and the diplomats think it is the responsibility of the two parties to bring this stalemate to an end. The proximity talks that were postponed last week have disappointed not only mediators but also the entire international community which was anticipating a breakthrough. The facilitators have, however, not given up (*Addis Tribune*, March 25).

A senior spokesman for the European Commission stated that the Commission was very concerned about the Ethio-Eritrean conflict and strongly believed that there can be no military solution. The spokesman added that no disbursement will be made by EC on approved funds until a "mutually acceptable agreement by both Ethiopia and Eritrea on a solution of the conflict was made." (*Addis Tribune*, March 17)

The Algiers Technical Arrangements document, which Ethiopia had rejected as not ensuring its national sovereignty and which it insisted must be clarified, is reportedly undergoing changes after six months. Following a recent private consultation between American envoy Anthony Lake and Prime Minister Meles Zenawi some, if not all, of Ethiopia's objections and demands for clarifications are being addressed. The changes in the document reportedly include a substitution of an observer force (not more than 200) for the former peace-keeping force. In line with Ethiopia's insistent demands, also, the two parties will identify the areas from which they would withdraw their troops before signing peace agreements. Other changes in matters of administration and the status of the militia have also been adopted. However, Ethiopia has refused to accept the document arguing that there are still points of ambiguity regarding its sovereignty which must be clarified in order to restore the status quo ante (*Reporter*, March 6).

The Lake/Ouyahya mission is interpreted by diplomatic observers in Addis Ababa as "a last minute" attempt to avert another round of full-scale fighting between Ethiopia and Eritrea as both sides were said to be in "high alert" with large troops amassed along Bade, Zalambessa and Bure – the three flash points at the tense border.

PM Meles Zenawi said the OAU Technical Arrangements and the clarifications given to Ethiopia are unacceptable and insufficient to

bring about a workable peace agreement to the Ethio-Eritrean conflict "The inconsistencies that appeared in the Technical Arrangements are not matters of presentation or editorial work but in many instances are fundamental matters of substance," he said (*Radio Ethiopia*, Dec. 14).

Ato Yemane Gebreab, a close aide to President Issayas Afeworki, accused Ethiopia of not only openly rejecting OAU peace plans but also of finalizing preparations for war (*Goh*, Dec. 11).

Appeals for Peace:

EHRCO (Ethiopian Human Rights Council) has issued its 30th statement calling for an immediate end to the Ethio-Eritrean conflict. As Ethiopia and Eritrea prepare for new hostilities, EHRCO called on all concerned parties to avoid this threat of destruction and come up with a peaceful and fair solution to the problem. The statement further urged the Ethiopian civil society to mend their relations with the Eritrean people, the Ethiopian government to actively take part in the search for peace, and the international community to step up its search for a peaceful solution (*Goh*, Feb. 12).

Ethiopians there, Eritreans here:

37 Ethiopians who were detained in prisons in Eritrea have escaped and arrived in Ethiopia through Sudan, according to the western Tigrai zone police. They arrived in Ethiopia last February after traveling through Humera (*State media*, March 15).

Ethiopia has expelled 1,500 more Eritreans, according to officials in Asmara. The deportees were rounded up for five days in the capital Addis Ababa beginning Dec. 17, and were sent home on Christmas Day. Eritrean officials alleged that Ethiopia carries out the deportations without the knowledge of the ICRC and without concern for the safety and security of those being deported (VOA, Dec. 28). - Ethiopian Government Spokesperson Selome Tadesse dismissed Eritrea's ethnic cleansing allegation as mere propaganda aimed at tarnishing Ethiopia's image. The spokesperson indicated that the repatriated Eritreans were people who asked to be reunited with family members who were earlier expelled as well as others believed to be national

security threats for Ethiopia (VOA, Dec. 29).

Ethiopia is taking legal action to recover debts from hundreds of Eritrean businessmen who have left the country as result of the border conflict between the two countries. Government spokesman Haile Kiros told Reuters that exiled Eritreans owed tens of thousands of dollars in outstanding bank loans or unpaid taxes and that this now needed to be settled (*Monitor*, Nov. 30).

The Eritrean government has again abducted Ethiopians who do not have residence permits and put them in Indaseal prison. Most of the abducted Ethiopians are those recently released from Aweshait prison but who could not obtain residence permits because of lack of money to pay for the registration. Ethiopians in Eritrea were notified by the authorities to secure temporary permits valid for six months upon payment of 200 nakfa (ENA, Dec. 2).

From the Battlefields:

The Voice of Red Sea Afars has reported that the Eritrean government has continued to bury anti-personnel landmines along the border with Ethiopia and in areas inhabited by Red Sea Afars (*Radio Ethiopia*, March 28).

As war broke out again on Wednesday, Feb. 23, between Ethiopia and Eritrea, both countries accused each other of having started the war at the Bure front along the road to the port of Assab. According to a military communiqué, Eritrea said it killed 120 Ethiopian soldiers and wounded 80. Eritrea did not disclose any casualty figures on its side (VOA, Feb. 24).

It has been reported that, since the defeat of the Eritreans and their expulsion from Badme, the land mines they left behind have killed 36 persons and wounded 72 others who had returned home. In addition, over 166 domestic and over 200 wild animals were killed. The Eritreans are said to have planted over 100,000 anti-personnel and anti-vehicle mines (*Atkurot*, Nov. 16).

Preparations for Fighting:

The Eritrean minister of foreign affairs has called on the Eritrean people to prepare themselves for the imminent war against Ethiopia. Ato Haile Wolde Tensae said that the OAU mediation efforts to solve the Ethio-Eritrean conflict was not expected to bear fruit (ETV, March 6).

Last week, Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi had said Ethiopia was prepared to take any necessary action to defend its sovereignty. Currently, both countries are amassing a large number of troops along the common border. It is estimated that there are over 600,000 troops stationed along the border to fight each other in a war that is considered to be the most catastrophic in Africa (VOA, Feb. 24).

Economics, Finance, Commerce

State Revenues, Budgets, Economic Growth:

Tax revenue collected by the Customs Authority has increased by 7.2 % from 2.21 billion birr in 1997/98 to 2.38 billion birr in 1998/99, while the

Internal Revenue collection increased by 8.4 % from 1.97 billion birr in 1997/98 to 2.13 billion birr in 1998/99 (*Capital, Jan. 9*).

The 10% surtax introduced on Dec. 14 does not apply to goods imported by investors for investment purposes or to fertilizer, airplanes, public and freight transport vehicles, or special purpose vehicles, according to Finance Minister Sufian Ahmed. He said the surtax was intended to make up for budget deficit estimated at around 800mio birr (*Radio Ethiopia, Jan. 3*). - As a result of the tax rise, stationary, construction items and food prices have soared (*VOA, Jan. 6*).

The Ethiopian economy has recovered from the poor performance caused by the 1997/98 El-Nino, achieving a real GDP growth of 6.3 % during the 1998/99 fiscal year against the forecast growth rate of 9 %, because of only partial recovery in the agricultural sector. -

Growth in gross capital formation has, however, tended to slow down (with a stable ratio to GDP) in 1998/99 owing to the less satisfactory investment activities of both the public and private sector. With respect to the external sector, the Current Account Deficit expanded by 3.7 % of GDP in 1998/99 over the preceding year. This was due to a sharp decline in export earnings and transfer payments from abroad on the one hand and a moderate increase in the import bill on the other. A one-third decline in revenue from coffee exports explains much of the decline in total export earnings. The deficit in the overall balance of payments had slightly improved (narrowed) because of big surplus in the capital account which in turn was explained by the increase in net external borrowing and foreign direct investment (FDI). Debt cancellation and rescheduling during the year under review have also helped finance the balance of payment deficit. - The Federal Government also ran fiscal deficit of 6.2 % of GDP (excluding grant) which is more or less close to the target. The deficit was caused by under target performance of revenue and the gap would have been wider had total expenditure not lagged by 8 % from its target (*Reporter, Dec. 1*).

Debts, Grants, Loans and Credits:

A senior European Commission spokesperson has said that Ethiopia is the largest beneficiary of European Commission assistance amongst the African, Caribbean and Pacific states, taking into account both European Development Fund (EDF) and budget resource. More than 2,3 billion euros have been allocated for Ethiopia since 1975. Food security aid has been most important with 38 % followed by EDF with 31 % and stabex with 13 % of total funding. Total food security aid alone between 1996 to 1999 amounted to 249.7mio euros. The 8th European Development Fund allocated 294mio euros, including the second track. Concentration areas are road development about 200mio euros, human development, including education 35mio euros, food security 5mio euros, democratization and institution building 10mio euros. (*Addis Tribune (March 17)*.

The Governments of Ethiopia and Japan have signed a 7.3mio US-\$ grant agreement. The grant would make a significant contribution towards ensuring food security in Ethiopia. The government of Japan has so far provided similar aid amounting to 100mio \$ (*State media, March 14*).

Ethiopia and Canada signed a memorandum of understanding providing for 15mio Canadian dollars (about 85mio birr) to be channeled for a three-year food-for-work program. Canada will provide the money to four Canadian NGOs and their Ethiopian partners for the purchase, shipment and distribution of approximately 28,000 metric tons of Canadian wheat (*ETV, March 15*).

UNDP has earmarked up to 25mio USD for various development activities it plans to undertake in Ethiopia this year. The money will be used for various projects in the fields of agriculture, education, health, potable water supply and for capacity building programs. 80 % will go to projects in different states, and the rest will be spent on projects being undertaken by the Federal Government. UNDP has allocated a total of 140mio USD to Ethiopia for the years 1998-2001. However, the release of the budget will depend on the success of the projects' implementation. Only close to 40mio USD of the stated sum was used over the past two years (*ENA, Feb. 22*).

The Irish ambassador to Ethiopia, said her government had allocated 116.1mio birr for this year to implement its development cooperation programs in Ethiopia. She said that Irish aid to Ethiopia had shown a marked increase from about 13mio birr in 1994 to 116mio birr in 1999. Irish cooperation development programs in Ethiopia were aimed at meeting the fundamental needs of the country's rural population as well as at capacity and institution building (*Addis Tribune, Feb. 25*).

The Minister of Works and Urban Development, said that the Agency for the Administration of Rented Houses was expecting over 65mio birr in arrears until the end of the last Ethiopian calendar year. He said that more than 30mio birr is owed by embassies in Addis Ababa while the rest is expected from individuals, governmental institutions, international organizations and political parties (*Radio Ethiopia, Feb. 1*).

The Omo Micro-Finance Small Scale Rural Credit Service Institute said it plans to loan 14mio birr to 14,571 farmers living in nine districts of Garaage zone (*Capital, Jan. 30*).

The Addis Credit and Savings Association has disclosed that it will soon provide loans to about 3,000 jobless youth in order to help them become productive citizens. Since its inception, the association has created jobs for ca.19,000 unemployed people (*Addis Lisan, Jan. 12*).

Ethiopia and the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Fund signed long-term loan agreements amounting to 19.5mio USD. The loan will be used to upgrade the Mekenajo-Mendi road in West Wellega. The 129-km gravel truck road will be upgraded to double bitumen standard to enhance agricultural development in the area. The loans were granted at 1 % interest rate with a grace period of five years (*ETV, January 3*).

Credit and savings associations in Tigray, Amhara and the Southern Regional States have, in the last three years, loaned 295.6mio birr to people in the low-income group. The manager of the Dedebit Credit and Savings Association, said his association loaned 145mio birr to 219,000 poor people, 43 % of whom were women. Similarly, the manager of the Amhara Credit Association said his association loaned over 120mio birr to 135,000 people (*Efoita, Dec. 9*).

Ethiopia and China signed a grant and interest-free loan agreement amounting to over 18mio birr. The loan will be used for the purchase of machinery, equipment and spare parts for the Awassa Textile Factory (*ETV, Dec. 3*).

The Ambassador of Germany to Ethiopia Herbert Honsowitz said that the agreements signed between the two governments in the fields of economic development, scholarships and cultural cooperation are yielding the desired results. The Ambassador refuted the rumor that Germany had suspended its economic assistance to Ethiopia following the conflict with Eritrea. He disclosed that, in fact, his government has allocated 35mio DM for the execution of new projects, and that a 60mio DM pledge for various projects is in the pipeline (*ENA, Nov. 11*).

Foreign Trade:

The Ethiopian Sugar Industry Support Center S.C. (ESISC) negotiated to sell the 100,000 tons of sugar allotted for this year's export market for \$14.5 million to Kahn International. The 1.8 billion birr sugar factory, Finchaa, has not put up its product for export and was left to the local market this year as the distance from the factory to Djibouti port would cost an extra transportation fare of 400 birr per ton compared to Metehara and Wonji Shoa (*Capital, April 3*).

The Minister of Trade and Industry disclosed that Ethiopia obtained 1.45 billion birr from exports during the first six months of the current Ethiopian budget year. The volume of export has shown an 8.2 percent increase over last year's while the income increased by 6.6 percent. Coffee constituted 56 percent of the exports (*Radio Ethiopia, March 7*).

In the 20 days before the end of the past week, importers were required to pay 100

percent of the amount stated on their letter of credit, unlike the previous practice where they used to pay from 50 percent down to ten percent of the amount requested. This new measure is expected to discourage importers and restrict them by indirectly protecting the local industries. There is also a procedure in effecting the process by providing special priority to capital goods and goods classified as essentials. Many Ethiopian industrialists also argue that extreme open access to foreign exchange earnings had encouraged importers to dump consumer goods and in return deteriorate the existing condition of the local manufacturing industries (*Capital*, Feb. 20).

Ethiopia's trade deficit widened by 38.5 % to 5.4 billion birr (\$670mio) in the 1998/99 financial year, Ethiopia's export agency said. Export revenues slipped from 4.2 billion birr in 1997/98 to 3.5 billion while imports grew from 8.1 billion birr to 8.9 billion. The agency blamed the deficit increase partly on falling global coffee prices. Coffee accounts for 63 % of the export earnings, or 2.1 billion in 1998/99 (*Monitor*, Feb. 1)

Ethiopia's export volume had declined by 15.6 % in 1998/99 compared to last year when the country had managed to export 4.1 billion birr worth of export items. Dr. Kassu Ilala, Deputy Prime Minister and Head of Economic Affairs, attributed the decline to poor quality products and the fall of prices in the world market. The nation has managed to earn only 3.2 billion birr, a decline of 29.5 %. The hard hit export was Ethiopia's primary export item, coffee, whose volume showed a decline of 29.3 % and its revenue fell by 33 %. Skins and hides registered a decline of 52 %, while oil seeds decreased by 38.8 % in volume and 23.8 % in revenue. The highest decrease in the export market was registered in the horticulture sector which declined by 65.5 % in volume and 44.4 % in revenue. Although the volume of export in floriculture went up by 39 %, its revenue declined by 18.6 %. - On the other hand, there was luck with khat this past year. Compared to the previous year's export increased by 84 % in volume and by 65.6 % in revenue with 128.1mio birr (*Capital*, Dec. 26).

Investment and Investment Policy:

The German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) has disclosed that it had undertaken various development projects in Ethiopia with an outlay of 250mio DM over the last 25 years. The Director of GTZ's Addis Ababa Office, Dr. Thomas Labahn, told that the projects were in education, health, improvement of water supply systems, agriculture and food security. GTZ is running 27 projects in the country at a cost of 20 to 30 mio DM annually. GTZ is also involved in the area of poverty alleviation in the last nine years, and had assisted 50,000 ex-soldiers to be self-reliant for four years with 8mio DM. GTZ just celebrated its silver jubilee (*ETV*, March 30).

President Negasso Gidada inaugurated the Gedo-Gimbi-Nekemte power station under-

taken at a cost of 1,227 kms. of electric lines and power stations had been installed in various towns over the past five years. The power station has a capacity to produce 132 kilo volts (*state media*, March 16).

The Ethiopian Investment Authority has said that it licensed various local and foreign investment projects with an aggregate capital of over 4.8 billion birr in the first six months of the current Ethiopian fiscal year. The licensed 302 projects are in mineral extraction, health, education, hotels and tourism, manufacturing industry, as well as agriculture and fishery. The licensed 28 foreign investments during the same period have an aggregate capital of 789mio birr (*ETV*, March 13).

A Chinese company, Copland, has signed a 2.5-mio birr agreement with the Coal Phosphate Fertilizer Complex Project to conduct a mines development feasibility study in Illubabor Zone, Oromiya State. The company will prepare a detailed feasibility study on a 10 sq. kilometer area in Yeyu Hurmu Wereda. The area is believed to have a deposit of 120 mio tons of coal (*Capital*, March 5).

The Nazareth Tractor Assembly Factory announced that it has launched a new model 91-horse power tractor. Factory manager Sisay Yimer said that the new tractor, Bilarus Model 952, is suitable for use in Ethiopia in terms of its durability, power, price and comfort. The factory has already assembled 50 tractors of the new model which are more powerful than the previous ones (*Monitor*, March 9).

Moha Soft Drinks Industry S.C., bottlers of Pepsi Cola, Mirinda and Seven Up will build a bottling factory in Mekele town at a cost of 78mio birr. The factory, to be constructed on 16,000 square meters of land, will have the capacity to produce 24,000 bottles of soft drinks per hour (*Capital*, Feb. 27).

The Addis Ababa Administration Lease Office recently managed to lease out only four plots of land out of the 126 such plots offered to potential investors. The plots of land offered for lease are too expensive and do not take into consideration the dynamics of present-day economic realities in the country (*Capital*, February 27).

Ethio-Mekele, a new corrugated iron sheet factory built by a local entrepreneur at a cost of 288 million birr has started production on Feb. 13. According to Aregawi Gebru, the owner, the factory has a capacity to produce 10,000 iron sheets a day (*Capital*, Feb. 20).

The Almeda Textile Factory built by the Tigrai Rehabilitation Institute at a cost of

599mio birr in Adwa was inaugurated last week. It has a capacity to produce 24 mio meters of textile and 7,000 tons of threads. The factory is equipped with computers and modern appliances, and has created employment opportunities to 1,217 people. 200 more people will be employed when it begins full production (*Radio Ethiopia*, Feb. 21). - Almeda's cornerstone was laid four years ago by Professor Roman Herzog, the President of the Federal German Republic, during his state visit to Ethiopia, and is seen as a "success story" of Ethio-German business partnership. The Almeda Textiles Company was built by Union Halex, a German firm (*Reporter*, Feb. 23).

Over 300,000 residents of Jimma Zone have benefited from the services provided by 33 projects jointly carried out by the Oromiya Development Association (ODA) and the Ethiopian Social Rehabilitation and Development Fund (ESRDF) during the last four years. The projects include 17 primary schools, eight deep and medium water wells, three clinics, three health posts and two health stations as well as flour mills. The projects were executed in the various kebeles of the 13 districts with an outlay of 22.7mio birr (*Entrepreneur*, Feb. 16).

Kombolcha Steel Products Industry (KOSPI), a MIDROC Ethiopia investment built at a cost of 75mio birr in Kombolcha town, 380 km. north of Addis Ababa, was officially inaugurated on Feb. 5. KOSPI currently produces 12,500 corrugated iron sheets per day and 10 mio per year (two-fold compared to similar factories in the country), while it produces 3,000 ripped iron sheets a day and four million annually (ten-fold more than local factories) (*Capital*, Feb. 6).

Trade and Industry Minister Kassahun Ayele said that the participation of domestic investors in the country is encouraging. Over 5,000 projects with a combined capital of 33 billion birr have been approved so far following the enactment of the policy. Despite the favorable investment environment in the country, however, only 205 FDI projects with an aggregate capital of 10 billion birr have been approved due to the negative image of the country as regards recurrent drought, famine and civil strife (*Radio Ethiopia*, Jan. 31).

A Salt Producers' Cooperative in Afder Zone of Somali State has supplied over 12,000 quintals of salt to the central market in the past six months. The salt was supplied under the auspices of the 17 salt producing stations run by the cooperative which has obtained a revenue of over 600,000 birr from the sale of salt. The cooperative was formed by 480 people who returned home four years ago after living in exile in neighboring countries. There is an estimated deposit of 1.6 mio tons of salt in the state (*Entrepreneur*, Jan. 26).

Participants of the "Development Africa 2000" exhibition and bazaar in Addis Ababa have said that Ethiopia's investment policy, said to be encouraging, still needs some improvement with regards to attracting more investors. They said that the existing tax-free privilege of three

to twelve years for those investing outside Addis Ababa and two years for those investing in Addis Ababa is not satisfactory (*Entrepreneur*, Jan. 19).

Adorna Shebelle, a leading Malaysian business company, will soon launch work on the construction of a satellite city and a business center in Addis Ababa at a cost of 6 billion US\$, according to the company's chief executive director. The construction of the satellite city for over one million residents and the business center - the largest in Africa - would be launched in the Merkato. The first phase of the construction would begin soon on 64 sq. km of land (*Monitor*, January 11). - The first phase covers 25.6 ha of land and is expected to cost 150 mio USD (*Entrepreneur*, Jan. 12).

The Amhara Regional State Investment Office announced that 144 projects out of the 407 licensed investment projects have become operational. The projects have an aggregate capital of 823.3mio birr. 83 projects with a combined capital of 869.2mio birr are also under operation (*Capital*, Jan. 9).

Elofara Agro Industry Plc, the affiliate of MIDROC Ethiopia, established after buying eight public enterprises with 372mio birr one year ago, has registered a 138mio birr sales during the last budget year. According to the Deputy Manager, Elofara allocated over 100mio birr last year for the expansion and rehabilitation of the factories, adding that it plans to increase its poultry products by 40 %. The industry also aims to increase its sales volume to 200mio birr in the current budget year. Dire Dawa, Debre Zeit, Kombolcha and Gonder meat processing plants, Melga Wondo Chafa Agricultural Development, Debrezeit Poultry and Shola Poultry are some of the enterprises operating under Elofara (*Capital*, Dec. 26).

Despite official claims to the contrary, the rural communities are experiencing growing poverty instead of prosperity, and private investors are still reluctant to invest despite the government's appeasing words and generous incentives. The declining volume of investment in agriculture relative to the trade and industry sectors show that the land policy is still the single most formidable barrier to private investment in the sector. According to recent data, out of the total 80mio birr of investments in trade, industry and agriculture, the latter received only 6.8mio birr as early as Sept. of this year (*Capital*, Dec. 19).

Summit Partners PLC has announced that it has finalized preparations to set up a bottle factory in Addis Ababa at a capital of more than 48mio US dollars. The enterprise has signed an agreement to import machinery to manufacture 150 mio bottles a year. The company has also signed a contract to export plastic bottles, which it started manufacturing four months ago, to Kenya. 80,000 and 100,000 plastic bottles are produced per day. The company plans to export over 50 million bottles when it starts manufacturing glass bottles (*Monitor*, Dec. 16).

Statistical data issued by the Ethiopian Investment Authority show that 2,621 projects (50.98%) out of the 5,141 registered ones have

not yet started operation. 1,436 projects have started production/services while 971 are finalizing preparations to start work. 80 projects have turned in their licenses (*Reporter*, Dec. 13).

Ethiopia and Sicor of Houston, Texas, have signed a preliminary agreement for a venture between them to produce natural gas and associated liquids discovered in 1973 by Tenneco. Known as the Gasoil Ethiopia Project (GEP), the enterprise involves the acquisition by GEP of two concessions in the Kalub and Hilala areas of the Ogaden basin, containing 4 trillion cubic feet of gas and 13.6 mio barrels of associated liquids. - GEP will also acquire approximately 95 percent of the Kalub Gas Share Company (CGSC) from the FDRE under its privatization laws for \$14mio and pay it an additional \$97 mio, all representing the cost of exploration and development to date in the concession areas. As road systems do not exist near the concession areas, GEP will construct a 600-kilometer, 24-inch gas pipeline to transmit gas and associated liquids to Awash town. This \$1.4 billion venture will be "fast-tracked" and is expected to be fully operational by Sept. 1, 2002. - GEP will devote 1% of net cash flow to wildlife, ecology and humanitarian projects in Ethiopia, mainly in the Kalub, Hilala and Awash areas (*The Reporter*, Dec. 8).

The most technologically advanced brewery in Ethiopia, Dashen Brewery, will become operational next January. The 325mio birr factory has a 50-mio liter annual brewing capacity or about 200,000 liters every day. The North Gonder beer plant has opened jobs for 331 workers and plans to distribute its bottled beer throughout the country (*Radio Ethiopia*, Nov. 25).

NGOs:

The external relations and development cooperation bureau of Addis Ababa Administration said that in the last six months, it had signed agreements with ten humanitarian organizations, which have a combined capital of 20.5mio birr. The projects will benefit over 555,000 people. Some of these organizations are the Methodist World Mission, Beza Organization for Women and Development, and the Christian and Development Cooperation Commission of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church (EOC). At present, there are 97 humanitarian organizations operating in Addis Ababa with an aggregate capital of over 392mio birr. Eighty percent of them are indigenous organizations (*Addis Lissan*, Jan. 29).

A total of 27 non-governmental organizations with over 136 million birr are engaged in various social service

activities in Addis Ababa. According to Ato Tsegaye Wolde Mariam, head of the NGO desk at the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, said the NGOs are duly registered with the Ministry (*Addis Lissan*, Dec. 8).

Privatisation:

A restricted tender, with the cost of the shares revised by recognized bidders for the three breweries – the Meta Abo, Harrar and Bedele Share Companies – was opened on March 27 at the Ethiopian Privatization Agency for the second time. The bidders - the Ethiopian Breweries SC and the Brasseries Internationals Holding Limited (BIH, the parent company of BGI) - have presented their proposals to the Agency's tender committee. The Ethiopian Brewery SC proposed to buy the three breweries at a total cost of 46.7mio \$ for 100% of the shares, payable in birr (149.4mio) and in U.S. \$ (28mio). Meanwhile, the BIH has offered 50 million dollars to buy 100% of the shares, and 33 million for 60% of the shares of the three breweries (*Reporter*, March 29).

Preparations are underway to transform the Ethiopian Coffee Exporting Enterprise into a share company. The share company will have a 54-mio birr capital out of which the government's share will be 28mio birr. The enterprise has seven coffee processing branch offices in Addis Ababa and Dire Dawa administrations and has 1,800 employees (*Entrepreneur*, Feb. 23).

The French-based beverage company BGI International has offered US\$40 mio for 100 % ownership of Meta Abo Brewery. Bids submitted for the purchase of Meta Abo, Bedele and Harar breweries as well as Awash Winery were officially opened January 31. The second highest bid of \$32.3mio was for Ethio-Breweries owned by a South African firm (SAB). Another company, New Way, offered \$12mio. The bidding for Awash Winery was highlighted by a proposal submitted by its former owners. The content of the proposal was not revealed (*Monitor*, Feb. 1).

The Ethiopian Shipping Lines, one of the oldest companies in the country, is to be privatized in accordance with the Commercial Code of Ethiopia and the Privatization of Public Enterprises Proclamation No. 146/1998. All shares numbering 289,171 valued at 1,000 birr each and totaling 289,171 billion birr were bought by the Ministry of Finance. The Adami-Tulu Pesticides Processing Share Company, the Bole Bulbula Construction, Stone Production Share Company, the Caustic Soda Share Company, the Addis Ababa Glass and Bottle Share Company have also come under the ownership of the Ministry of Finance (*Addis Tribune*, Jan. 21).

The state-owned Dire Dawa Textile Factory which has existed for more than 40 years has been privatized. The factory was sold to a Turkish entrepreneur – Atila Yildrim for 13mio dollars. The Dire Dawa Textile Factory is known for producing high-quality acrylic and cotton fibers as well as colored and printed

cotton and polyester textiles (*Entrepreneur*, Jan. 12).

The Oromia Investment Bureau has announced that ten agricultural enterprises in East Wellega zone will be privatized some time this year. The enterprise, said to have been idle for nine years as a result of vandalism following the downfall of the previous regime, covers an area of over 40,000 hectares and used to produce about one mio quintals of maize and sorghum every year. According to the investment bureau, three enterprises in Bale covering 13,000 ha were privatized last year (*Addis Tribune*, Jan. 6).

The Ethiopian Privatization Agency has disclosed that seven out of the eleven state-owned livestock breeding stations have been privatized. According to the head of public relations of the agency, the remaining four cattle breeding stations in Jimma, Selale, Debre Zeit and Me-nagesha will also be auctioned (*Efoita*, Dec. 29).

The 34-year-old Ethiopian Canvas and Rubber Shoe Factory has been privatized. The factory was unable to compete in the local market especially since 1997. As a result, more than 500 employees had no work but still continued to receive their salaries. The factory also lost imported raw materials worth about 3mio Birr at the port of Assab. The Ethiopian Canvas and Rubber Shoe Factory used to produce 11,500 pairs of canvas shoes, 860 pairs of boots and 600 pairs of walking shoes per day (*Entrepreneur*, Dec. 8).

Transport and Communication:

The Ethiopian Roads Authority (ERA) has said that it is constructing four highways that would allow Ethiopia gain access to four ports in neighboring countries. The highways will link Ethiopia with the ports of Djibouti, Berbera, Mombassa and Sudan (*Radio Ethiopia*, April 4).

The Ethiopian Roads Authority has disclosed that renovation of the Azezo-Metema road linking Ethiopia and Sudan would be completed in of 9.7 million birr, is already being damaged, only after 5 months since completion (*Radio Ethiopia*, Nov. 20).

Housing:

Ropack International Private Limited Company and a South African Company – GROUP FIVE – have jointly planned to build houses in Addis Ababa at a place located two kilometers away from CMC. The houses are said to be of three types with plot sizes of 500, 300 and 200 square meters. According to the company owners, the area where the houses are going to be built is expected to have asphalt roads accessible to every home, electricity, water, telephone lines, modern sewerage facilities, supermarkets, gymnasium, a swimming pool and a modern clinic (*Entrepreneur*, March 1).

Over 2,400 low-cost houses with single, two and three rooms are under construction at five sites in the capital, the Addis Ababa Administration's Housing Construction Task Force disclosed (*Addis Lissan*, Feb. 5).

The head of the administration section of the Addis Ababa Lease Office, said that 77 plots

land, each between 240 and 600 sq. meters wide, will be put on bid at the upcoming 28th land lease auction. The plots, located in Kotebe, Keranio and Mekanissa areas, will be used for the construction of 634 residences and 75 apartments (*Addis Lissan*, Dec. 8).

Ayat Real State Development Enterprise has completed preparations to build five thousand residential houses with a capital of more than 1.05 billion birr. The houses will be sold to those who are interested in buying individually or in groups. the money will be paid either within 30 years or immediately (*Entrepreneur*, Nov. 18).

Other Issues:

The National Bank of Ethiopia (NBE), the country's central bank has issued directives pertaining to foreign exchange transactions to come into effect immediately. At least for a while, foreign currency will be allocated only for essential goods. The official regular foreign exchange auction market will not be expected to continue (*Addis Tribune*, Feb. 23).

Ethiopia's currency, the birr, continued to decline in relation to the US dollar in the weekly foreign exchange auction of the National Bank of Ethiopia depreciating by 8.5 % within a year. The birr's exchange rate was fixed at a normal rate of 8.14 to the dollar on January 1, representing a decline of 64 cents to that of 1998. The birr is expected to decline in value still further in January as a result of the government's introduction – before the end of 1999 – of a 10 percent surtax on most imported goods., (*Monitor*, Jan. 6).

The Ministry of Trade and Industry had announced an increase in the price of fuel as of Dec. 31, 1999. The Ministry said the prices of gasoline, kerosene and diesel per liter will be increased by 44, 22 and 15 cents, respectively. The price increases were necessitated by the rising fuel prices on the world market and a slight weakening of the birr against the dollar, the ministry said. The new fuel tariff will remain in effect for the next three months (*State media*, Dec. 30).

Agriculture, Food Aid, Drought Extension, Investment and Credits:

The agricultural extension program has embraced half of the farming community in Tigray state. The state's agricultural bureau disclosed at a workshop on the five-year development program that there is still critical shortage in the supply of production inputs in the state (*Radio Ethiopia*, January 29).

The number of farmers in Oromia state who joined the agricultural extension program has reached 1.5 million. The

number of farmers in extension programs in Oromia five years ago was only 15,000 (*Abiota-wi Democracy*, Jan. 7).

The Alwero Dam built at a cost of 87.4mio birr four years ago in Gambella state has still not started operation. Regional government officials said that this was because of budgetary constraints. The dam was expected to supply water to help develop 10,000 hectares of irrigated farming by 7000 peasants for the cultivation of sorghum, rice, corn and various oil seeds (*Radio Ethiopia*, January 8).

Agricultural Inputs and Production:

The Bishoftu Medicinal Agriculture and Aromatic Plant (BMAAP) Plc., a joint venture established by a local company, Dinsho Agro Industry Plc, in partnership with Italian nationals in March 1998, has started production in Debere Zeit on farmland formerly owned by ETFRUIT. Dinsho holds the 50 % majority share of the company's total 4.68mio birr capital, while its Italian partners, Afra Company holds 17 % shares and other individuals hold the remaining shares. The company plans to produce and supply foreign markets with medicinal herbs and aromatic plants such as Comemila, Calendula, Pimpinela, Borago Afisinalis, Kertimes and Piretrem used for medicinal oils, aromatic cosmetics and pesticides (*Capital*, April 3).

The Acting Minister of Agriculture (MOA), Dr. Mengistu Hulluka, has said that despite the efforts of agricultural researchers and seed producers, the vast majority of peasant farmers rely on "home-saved" seeds which have low productivity and are vulnerable to pests and diseases. The current improved seeds production level is not compatible with the demand of the estimated 4 mio farmers involved in the extension program. He added that in considering the total number of farm families in the program (estimated at 9 to 10 million), the current production of improved seed amounts to less than 50 gram per farm family (*ETV*, Feb. 28).

The Gambella Cotton Ginning Factory expects to harvest 3,200 quintals of cotton from 230 hectares of plantation this production year (*Capital*, Jan. 16).

The agriculture bureau of Benishangul-Gumuz State said that fourteen investors, with an aggregate capital of 41.4 million birr, have started the production of oil seeds on 51,120 hectares of land. This season, the investors expect to reap over 122,000 quintals of groundnuts, niger seed, sesame and linseed (*Capital*, Nov. 28).

Despite the fact that Ethiopia has a 16 million goat population, its contribution to the national economy is minimal due to lack of proper attention. Lack of sustainable research aimed at improving goat species has made it impossible for the country to obtain the expected hard currency. There are 11 types of goat species in Ethiopia and efforts are well underway to cross-breed them with foreign ones. Ethiopia also obtained 5mio US-\$ from the export of live

goats and sheep including mutton in 1996 (*Entrepreneur*, Nov. 28).

Other Agricultural Issues:

Ethiopia has allocated a 720mio birr budget for agricultural research which will be undertaken in the next five years (*Capital*, Nov. 28).

Soil research laboratories are being built at a cost of 6.7mio birr in Bahr Dar, Mekele, Awassa, Wolkite, Dessie, and Bedele. They would give information to farmers about what fertilizer types they should use (*Radio Ethiopia*, Nov. 27).

Drought, Flood, Famine and Food Aid:

The EU said it has decided to send 8mio . quintals of food grain for people affected by food shortages in Ethiopia (VOA, April 4). - Ethiopia and France have signed a grant agreement providing for 6,000 metric tons of soft wheat (*Radio Ethiopia*, April 6).- Canada has announced a 34.3-mio birr assistance as an initial contribution for emergency food aid to Ethiopia (ENA, April 6).

A USAID official has called on Ethiopia and Eritrea to stop fighting and to allow food assistance to reach the needy in the Horn. USAID deputy administrator, Mr. Hugh Parmer, said that during his recent visit to Ethiopia and Eritrea, he had requested officials of both countries to facilitate conditions for providing immediate food assistance to drought victims. He said that this effort had later proved to be unacceptable. Ethiopia's Foreign Ministry had rejected an offer by Eritrea to put Assab port at the disposal of the victims (VOA, April 6).

The National Meteorological Service (NMS) has announced that in the next ten days, there would be rainfall in Amhara, western part of Tigrai, Benishangul Gumuz, Western Oromiya, Gambella and in most parts of the Southern Peoples' state. These almost regular rains will create favorable conditions for grains such as sorghum and maize and to plant seeds. NMS added that the less than average rain in central eastern Oromiya, most parts of Borena, Somali, Amhara, eastern Tigrai and Afar will aggravate the problem in these areas and will especially affect pastoralists (*Radio Ethiopia*, April 6).

The breakdown of the needy by regions is 272,000 in Afar, 1 mio in Tigrai, 1.5 mio in Oromiya, 2.5 mio in Amhara and the rest of the total of 8 mio in the Southern Peoples' State.

One major cause for the current crisis was the poor harvest of the meher or main agriculture season. The late rains of the secondary season, the belg, resulted in poor land preparation, late planting and short-term, low-yielding crops. The failure of this year's belg rains, which are expected soon, could further increase the number of those in need. - According to WFP, the situation in the Somali and Afar regions of the country is life threatening with more than 1.3 million pastoralists needing food aid. In some badly-affected

zones like Gode, an estimated 90 percent of the cattle have died (*Addis Tribune*, March 3).

Germany will allocate the necessary funds for the local purchase of 1,450 metric tons of grain and 100 metric tons of oil to give a much-needed assistance to the drought-affected Borena area, the Embassy said this week "People here are in dire need of assistance to surmount their problems," the German Ambassador, Dr. Herbert Honsowitz, said during a recent visit to Borena. He was gravely concerned about the seriousness of the situation (*Reporter*, Feb. 23).

Currently, food aid stocks have dropped to alarming levels – reportedly only about 49,000 MT. This is only enough to cover immediate needs for about two months. Additional food, apart from the 100,000 MT pledged by the government will need to be pledged, landed, and delivered before the heavy rains begin in most areas in July. This appears to be impossible. The total amount of food needed is over 75,000 MT per month (825,000 divided by 11 months). During the peak months of May and June, the delivery of up to half of the year's total (400,000 tons) would be needed to guarantee that food is pre-positioned before the rains (*Addis Tribune*, Feb. 18).

The DPPC of the Ethiopian government last week made an appeal for the annual food aid. Although the appeal seems to have been well received by donors, there is concern that the amount of food requested will not be received. The request for almost 900,000 tons is much higher than the approximate amount of 470,000 tons received last year or about 350,000 tons the year before (*Addis Tribune*, Feb. 4).

Environment:

The wildfire that broke out in different parts of the country in the last two months have been put out, the Vice Minister of Agriculture said. It was contained after a campaign involving over 100,000 people as well as the government and foreign countries in response to a call for assistance extended by the National Committee (*Radio Ethiopia*, April 5).

A forest fire had erupted inside Ethiopia's Nechsar Game Park, home to the rare Swayne's hartebeest. The fire is threatening wild animals including the Swayne's hartebeest, a horse-like antelope with short, curved horns which is found only in Ethiopia. Nech-sar, a 514 sq kms (320 sq miles) game park, is located near Arba Minch some 500 kms south of Addis Ababa. The

fire was thought to have been started by Guji and Koir tribes who inhabit the region while clearing bushland for cultivation (*Monitor*, March 14).

Another blaze that threatened to engulf the 1,500 square kms (932 sq miles) Bale Mountain Park, also in the south of the country, had almost been brought under control. A regional official in Bale told that fires in the districts of Berbere, Delo-Mena, Goba and Goro in the southern region of Bale have been extinguished. The blazes have already destroyed some 70,000 hectares of natural forest (ENA).

70 people in Bale and 76 others in the Shakiso area were arrested last week, being suspected of having started the forest fire. Shortage of rain in the last two years and persistently windy weather were said to be the main reasons for the spread of the fire (*Reporter*, March 1).

A team of German firefighters has flown to southern Ethiopia to tackle two bushfires. One fire in the Bale region has already destroyed more than 40,000 acres of virgin forest and natural coffee forest, and is now approaching an important national park in southern Ethiopia, home to several of the world's rarest mammal species. The 1,500 square-mile Bale Mountain Park is home to half of the 400 Simien foxes in the world, as well as to two other species found only in Ethiopia - the Mountain Nyala and Menelik's Bushbuck (*Monitor*, March 4).

Wildfire in four separate places of the country - Borena, Bale, Gurage and Wendogenet – has continuously ravaged protected natural forests, crop farmlands, coffee plantations and even national parks. Efforts so far to control the fire have totally failed and officials have despaired - counting only on possible rains to arrest the disaster. Wild animals have mostly perished and some have fled to safe areas (*Tomar*, Feb. 23).

Global Environment Facility (GEF) has launched a program to support Ethiopia in developing its Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP) under a UNDP project with a budget of over US-\$ 331,000, the BSAP is a "consensus building exercise" that should lead to a strategy and action plan for the conservation, sustainable utilization as well as fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of Ethiopia's rich diversity of biological resources "to be enjoyed in the centuries to come." The resources reportedly include more than 700 plants and 31 species of mammals of which 29 are endemic (*Entrepreneur*, Jan. 19).

Over 700,000 hectares of land has been designated for forests in North Gonder zone, the zonal agricultural department said. The purpose of the designation is to discourage farmers from clearing forests for farming (*Radio Ethiopia*, Dec. 16).

Tourism:

The Ethiopian Tourism Commission disclosed that Ethiopia obtained over 130mio birr from tourism in the last Ethiopian calendar year. The commission said the income was obtained

from 90,500 foreign tourists (*Entrepreneur*, March 6).

Lake Awassa is losing its reputation as a tourist attraction as a result of huge amounts of urban waste dumped along the shores of the lake from the town of Awassa. The bodies of dead animals in the lake have also aggravated the problem. The Awassa municipality said it would take steps to redress the situation (*Radio Ethiopia*, Dec. 25).

Social, Cultural and Political Aspects

Elections 2000:

Political parties contesting in the elections have started getting subsidies to support their campaign activities. Sources close to the Subsidy Committee said the parties are being subsidized in proportion to the number of candidates they are fielding. The parties receive 5,000 and 2,500 birr for each candidate they field for seats in the House of Peoples' Representatives and the State Council, respectively. They have already taken 30 percent of their share and will receive the rest in due course. A sum of one million birr has been allotted for the first round of payment (*ETV*, Mach 24).

The Ethiopian Human Rights Council (EHRCC) has issued its first report regarding the electoral process in the country. Based on petitions it had received, EHRCC affirmed that, in different parts of the country, electors as well as candidates have been subjected to intimidation and threats, dismissal from work or forced transfers, dispossession of properties, abduction and imprisonment, extra-judicial killings and shootings by local officials and cadres. The report cited illegal activities against candidates and supporters of the Gedeo People's Democratic Organization and the Hadiya National Democratic Organization in various zones and districts of Southern Ethiopia (*Ethio-Time*, March 12).

According to information from the National Electoral Board (NEB), the Oromo National Congress (ONC) has fielded 53 candidates for parliament; the All Amhara People's Organization (AAPO) has fielded 17 candidates, the Ethiopian Democratic Union 13 candidates, the Ethiopian Democratic Party 13 candidates, and the Hadiya People's Democratic Organization 10 candidates. These figures do not include independent candidates for parliament and opposition candidates for regional councils. At present, the Oromo National Congress leads this field with about 174 candidates (*Tomar*, Jan. 26).

The Southern Ethiopia Peoples Democratic Unity Party has accused election officials at the various polling stations in Awassa of creating problems such as refusing to verify the endorsement signature forms collected by the candidates. The officials thus invalidated most of the endorsement signature forms as the deadline expired due to the delay and the officials' negligence, the party said (*Radio Ethiopia*, Jan. 24).

U.S. Ambassador Tibor Nagy said during his recent two-day visit to Gambella that he saw for himself that the government was encouraging

opposition political groups. He said this is a good step for Ethiopia's democracy (*Efoita*, Jan. 20).

All 1,958 candidates fielded by the EPRDF throughout six states including Dire Dawa and Harari state have been accepted by the electorate. The EPRDF has not fielded candidates in Somali, Gambella, Benishangul-Gumuz and Afar states. The four member organizations of the EPRDF, namely, the TPLF, OPDO, ANDM, and the SEPFD have fielded candidates according to the size of the population they represent (*Abiotawi Democracy*, Jan. 18).

It has been reported that 16 supporters and activists of the Southern Ethiopia Peoples' Democratic Coalition (SEPDC) were jailed by EPRDF officials in north and south Shashego Kebeles, Lemo District, Hadiya zone (*Tomar*, Jan. 12).

Ethiopian opposition parties have bitterly complained against ruling party cadres and officials for alleged obstruction and pressure in the runup up to the May elections. Leaders of the Oromo National Congress (ONC) accused EPRDF cadres and local administration officials of engaging in widespread defamation campaigns and obstructions to deter ONC's participation in the elections. Tsegaye Wolde, party secretary general has, meanwhile, said the National Electoral Board (NEB) has shown great effort to live up to expectations. He also said that the ONC has always argued that the government should respect its own laws (VOA, Jan. 12).

Some opposition political parties have reportedly complained about the ill treatment of their candidates by local officials. Such complaints were made by the All Amhara People's Organization, Southern Ethiopia Peoples' Democratic Coalition, Ethiopian Democratic Union Party and Oromo National Congress. Meanwhile, the National Electoral Board (NEB) has reportedly rejected calls by opposition groups to extend by one month the time allowed for collecting endorsement signatures (*Tomar*, Dec. 29).

Opposition-Related Issues:

The OLF has issued a statement announcing that one of its politburo members was assassinated in Mogadishu by a hit squad. Jal Mula (also known as Adem Tukale or Aba Geda Elias) was killed while his close relative Dinaras Wadey was wounded. The statement noted that Jal Mula had spent 35 years fighting for the Oromo people and is considered a hero and a martyr. Meanwhile, the OLF issued a fresh position statement on Feb. 3 to resolve the Oromo question peacefully. Accordingly, it proposed a referendum supervised by

international bodies to determine whether Oromia should get its independence or remain part of Ethiopia (*Menelik*, Feb. 18).

The BBC reported that Ethiopian troops armed with heavy weapons moved swiftly and occupied Goldogob town without a fight on Jan. 3. They were reportedly looking for Al-Ithad fighters (*Seife Nebelbal*, Jan. 7).

The Somali National Alliance led by the Somali faction leader Hussein Aideed has disclosed the expulsion of nine commanders of the OLF from Somalia to a third country in the presence of a third party. In a press release, the Alliance listed the expelled commanders as Gelassa Dilbo, Abba Chala Lata, Abba Biyya Rooba, Dawud Ibsa, Bultum Biyyo, Dhugesa Bakako, Galfato Feqa and two unnamed ones. The BBC also said the nine OLF commanders flew out of Somalia following the disarming of 100 members of the front last month. Officials of the Libyan embassy were present to see the plane leave, apparently for Eritrea (*Radio Ethiopia*, Dec. 16).

The chairman of the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF), Gelassa Dilbo, has, reportedly submitted a letter of resignation and asked to be relieved of his duties as OLF chairman on health grounds. The OLF National Council, after a careful examination of the letter, accepted the OLF chairman's resignation. The council subsequently elected Ato Dawud Ibsa Ayana as the new OLF chairman (*Radio Ethiopia*, Nov. 29).

Crime, Corruption and Legal Affairs:

Over 1.6mio birr has been embezzled from government offices in three zones of Oromia state, the western Oromia auditor office said. The money was misappropriated from 21 offices of Illubabor, Jimma and East Wellega zones since 1997 (*Monitor*, Jan. 11).

Over 2.5mio birr has been embezzled from various government offices in South Wello zone, Amhara state, during the last five years, the zonal financial department said. So far, it has been possible to retrieve only over 404,000 birr (*ENA*, Jan. 2).

Almost half of the 13mio birr embezzled from government offices in Bale zone, Oromia state, from 1993-1999 have been retrieved, the zonal administration said (*Monitor*, Jan. 6).

Officials of Southern Ethiopia Region accused of corruption and autocratic rule were reportedly detained after a formal performance evaluation in the presence of senior party and government leaders sent by the central government. Following a six-day session at Dilla and Awassa, key local party, were arrested by Awassa police (*Tobia*, Dec. 23).

Refugees:

Ethiopians from various German cities staged a demonstration on Feb. 25 in front of the Sudanese embassy in Bonn to protest a decision by the UNHCR to repatriate Ethiopian refugees in Sudan. The demonstrators vehemently called for a reversal of the UNHCR decision to forcibly expel Ethiopian refugees and immediately deny refugee status to those who refuse to be repatriated (*Dagim Wenchif*, Feb. 29).

The OLF has reportedly issued a statement urging the UNHCR not to repatriate Oromo refugees in Sudan to Ethiopia. It said repatriating Oromos could only serve to swell the Ethiopian army in its current conflict with Eritrea (*Beza, Feb. 22*).

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has disclosed that all doors are now open for the repatriation of thousands of Ethiopian and Eritrean refugees in Sudan. The UNHCR said it would begin the repatriation next April or May. A UNHCR spokesman said the repatriation involves 12,000 Ethiopian and 150,000 Eritrean refugees, and that Sudan has agreed to facilitate the operation. He expressed hope that Eritrea and Ethiopia would also cooperate in the repatriation process (*Radio Ethiopia, Feb. 24*).

News about Culture and History:

Ethiopian Ambassador in Canada, Dr. Fekadu Gedamu, has urged for the return of Ethiopian historical relics currently housed in the British and Royal Ontario museums. The two historical relics found in Canada and Britain consist of embroidered carpets made from silk and bear unprecedented signs of artistry and craftsmanship. He said the carpets illustrated the burial ceremony of the then emperor of Gonder, Bakafa, and the pictures include two of Empress Mintwab and Prince Iyassu together with their guards of honor. According to the research papers written by Balicka and Gervers, the carpets were taken from Emperor Tewodros after the British expeditionary force stormed the fortress of Makdela and after the Emperor committed suicide. The relics were brought to Britain and Canada by Major General Charles M. Griffith and Colonel Augustoios Sweeng whose heirs handed the relics over to the museums (*Sun, March 23*).

The Heritage Research and Preservation Agency (HRPA) has announced that it has finalized preparations to establish a heritage preservation laboratory aimed at protecting heritages and produce skilled manpower with 30mio birr. Invaluable and rare heritages would be classified according to quality and standard through scientific methods. HRPA has expended more than 2.5mio birr in the past six months to repair edifices such as the Axum Tsion church, the Lalibela rock-hewn churches, the Atse Fasil and the Etege Mentewab palaces (*Entrepreneur, Feb. 23*).

An Ethiopian civic group campaigning for the return of valuable historic treasures looted by the British army during the Magdala Expedition against Emperor Tewodros II in 1868 has complained that Britain has ignored its request (*Meyssaw Kassa, Feb. 21*).

An American archaeological exploration organization called Lisse Foundation and Wanen Grand has begun research and archaeological studies in the localities of Gona of Mille district in Afar State to obtain more information about the development of ancient man. The ten-man American archaeological team is led by Mr. Michael Rogers and will conduct the studies in the next two months. Gona is the place where

the Ethiopian researcher Dr. Sileshi Semaw carried out research and where stones used by man 2.6 mio years ago were found (*Efoita, February 10*).

The house where the French poet Arthur Rimbaud lived in Harar was scheduled to be open to the public on Feb. 4 after thorough refurbishing. The historic house was built towards the end of the nineteenth century by Rimbaud who lived in Harar. The restoration, which took place from 1996 to 1999, was jointly financed by the Harar regional state, the Ministry of Culture and Information, the French and Italian embassies and the French Center for Ethiopian Studies (*Addis Tribune, Feb. 4*).

The House of Peoples' Representatives has discussed a bill providing for the establishment of an institution charged with the task of conserving and preserving the country's national heritage. It indicated the need to formulate laws on the preservation of relics and to set up an institution that would effectively implement the law. The draft regulation will allow the establishment of the Ethiopian Heritage Study and Preservation Authority (*ETV, Dec. 21*).

Reputed Ethiopian film director Haile Gerima's documentary "Adwa: Africa's Victory" was inaugurated at the Lincoln Theater in Washington D.C. Several Ethiopians, African-Americans, as well as scores of other Africans attended the ceremony (*VOA, Nov. 22*).

An international jury composed of renowned architects, archaeologists and conservationists from around the world, including Ethiopia, will meet in Lalibela and Addis Ababa between Nov. 28 and Dec. 3 to determine the type of new shelters protecting the five rock-hewn churches. According to the EU delegation in Addis Ababa, the work would cost some 35mio birr, which would be financed by the EU. The project will renovate five of Lalibela's world famous rock-hewn churches (*Reporter, Nov. 17*).

Other Social and Political Issues:

According to information from the government (March 1999) and FAO, under-nourishment affected 51% of the population between 1995 and 1997, and 28 million people are estimated to live in chronic and transitory poverty in rural and urban areas. 52 % of the people who live in rural areas are affected by food insecurity while 36% in urban areas are unable to get the minimum food required. 50% of the Ethiopian population live below the absolute poverty line (*ETV, March 10*).

In its annual report for 1999-2000, the Ethiopian Economics Association pointed out that the average per capita

income of Ethiopians had dipped lower than \$100 to about \$83. At the present pace, Ethiopians would have to work for 43 years to achieve parity with the poorest nations that now earn an annual per capita income of \$480 (*Tomar, Feb. 16*).

The labor and social affairs bureau of Oromia state says it has designed projects that would help change the lives of 10,000 street children and mothers in Nazareth and Shashamene towns of East Shoa zone over the next three years. The head of the bureau's women's affairs department, Germa Keddu, said efforts were being made to implement six projects focusing on education, health, housing, skill training and loan services (*ENA, Jan. 13*).

Over 425,000 people had benefited from family planning services last year due to growing awareness about the importance of family planning services, the Ethiopian Family Guidance Association said. Over 64,000 family members in the country have been protected from unwanted pregnancy. 70 % of the beneficiaries live in the rural areas. EFGA has 500 trained agents throughout the country (*Entrepreneur, Nov. 10*).

Foreign Relations:

The Joint Ethio-Kenya Border Administrators Committee ended its deliberations after agreeing to work jointly to fight terrorist activities along the common border, to prevent the accumulation of illegal weapons and to stop the illegal transfer of money. In a resolution at the end of the meeting the readiness of the two countries was reaffirmed to closely monitor OLF terrorist activities along the common border (*Radio Ethiopia, Feb. 5*).

Following talks between Djibouti's president Omar Guelleh and the Ethiopian and Kenyan leaders, there are plans to send a peace-keeping force to Somalia. The force will be made up of troops from Djibouti, Kenya and Ethiopia to protect the transitional government to be set up in Mogadishu and to maintain peace until the election of a popularly elected government. Yemen is expected to provide naval protection for Somali ports (*Fiameta, January 19*).

Ethiopia and Sudan have agreed to forge closer ties based on the principles of good neighborliness, mutual interest and respect, as well as scrupulous observance of the principles of international law governing inter-state relations (*Monitor, Nov. 20*).

Education:

The North Wello zone administration has granted 35 hectares of land for free for the construction of the proposed vocational college to be built by Sheik Mohammed Hussein Al Arnoudi. The construction is estimated to cost 40mio birr. The college will offer diploma courses in general mechanics, auto mechanics, electricity, building technology, leather technology, wood work, accounting, secretarial science and office management (*Capital, April 3*).

272 schools have been built in Tigray in the past five years at a cost of 250,000 birr, the regional educational bureau said. Five vocational training centers, one special boarding school and one technical school were also built. There are 996 schools in Tigray providing all levels of education to 518,934 students. Having stood at 65.3mio 5 years ago, the budget for education has now doubled (*Addis Tribune, March 25*).

The 17th regular conference of the Ethiopian Teachers' Association (ETA) said it would soon pass a resolution to assist efforts to remove the major causes that have led to the low standard of education in the country. Ato Antepe told conference participants that the deteriorating quality of education has reached a critical stage. Another great problem, he added, was the fact that a large number of teachers are leaving their jobs (*State media, Feb. 9*).

The German Technical Cooperation Agency (GTZ) has said it has allocated 13.3 million DM to strengthen technical and vocational education in Ethiopia. An official of GTZ's training section told ENA that his agency is providing technical assistance in the next three years to strengthen the basis of technical and vocational training (*Radio Ethiopia, Jan. 30*).

Preparations are underway to inaugurate the South University (SU) in the Southern Peoples' State, the coordinating committee announced. The dean of Awassa Agricultural College and secretary of the committee, Dr. Zenabu Gebre-Mariam, said that they are working on organizing the required manpower and other sectors of the SU through the integration of the Wondo-Genet Forestry, Dilla Teachers Education and Health Sciences and the Awassa Agriculture Colleges. SU is one of the four universities recently approved by the Council of Ministers (*ENA, Jan. 27*).

A total of 1,500 students from Alemaya Agricultural University, Dilla Teachers' Health Science College and the Education Faculty at Bahr Dar Teachers' College were reported to have been expelled on Dec. 24. The measure was taken after students rejected a new Bachelor of Education degree introduced in place of the former degree of Bachelor of Science which they used to get upon graduation (*Tobia, Dec. 31*).

About 400 primary and secondary school teachers, who attended a gathering in Awassa on the recent disturbances in Welaita concerning the medium of instruction, have condemned elements they described as bent on isolating the Welaita people from the rest of the nationalities in North Omo zone. The teachers expressed regret over their involvement in inciting students to violence which claimed the lives of some students. The recent clashes in Welaita erupted after authorities dictated the fusion of four apparently related languages spoken by four various nationalities in North Omo for use as the medium of instruction in primary schools. The decision was subsequently reversed following strong reaction from the students, teach-

ers and the general public (*Radio Ethiopia, Dec. 8*).

The extraordinary conference of the Welaita district council of the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples State (SNNPR) held in Sodo town on November 16 has decided that Welaitigna become the working language and the medium of instruction in primary schools (*Radio Ethiopia, Nov. 17*).

Health:

Ethiopia's minister responsible for social and administrative sectors in the Prime Minister's office, Dr. Kebede Tadesse, told a conference that as the third leading cause of death in the country, malaria affects between 4 to 5 mio people annually (*Monitor, Feb. 8*).

A hospital built in Mota town, east Gojam zone of the Amhara state, with an outlay of over 11.5mio birr was inaugurated. The 27 block, all-purpose hospital with 155 beds was built with money allocated by the Amhara state council. The head of the state health bureau said the hospital would serve about 620,000 residents of the town and the environment (*Monitor, Feb. 8*).

A clinic built in Jimma town, Oromia state at a cost of 4mio birr by a private entrepreneur went into operation last week. The owner, Ahmed Abddiko, said the clinic would provide health care services at reasonable fees. The clinic employs 30 people (*ENA, Jan. 25*).

A malaria epidemic feared to be sweeping through central Tigray zone has been put under control following a massive anti-malaria campaign, the zonal health department said (*Monitor, Jan. 25*).

The Addis Ababa AIDS Prevention and Control Council, said at a mass rally organized to mark World AIDS Day that there are an estimated 287,000 persons living with HIV/AIDS in Addis Ababa. Meanwhile, the head of the Addis Ababa City Government has indicated that 700,000 people in the capital are believed to be HIV /AIDS patients (VOA, Dec. 1) - A study has indicated that 60 percent of deaths in Ethiopia will be caused by HIV/AIDS in the next four years if the current alarming spread of the disease is not checked (*Addis Lissan, Nov. 24*).

By the year 2000, about half of the country's total hospital beds would be occupied by AIDS patients. Ethiopia ranks first in the world with the greatest number of HIV infected children, according to the HIV/AIDS coordinator at the World Bank. More than 140,000 children had contracted HIV. According to recent studies, Ethiopia was the 16th highest in the HIV/AIDs prevalence rate among sub-Saharan African countries,

she said. There are about 2.5 million HIV-infected people in Ethiopia (*Monitor, Nov. 9*).

The Ethiopian Health and Nutrition Research Institute (EHNRI) stated that it has finalized its research and made five traditional medicines ready for use. The medicines were tested to cure skin disease, asthma and hypertension, and the institute is inviting pharmaceutical manufacturers to produce the medicines (*Capital, Nov. 7*).

Human Rights, Religion

Freedom of Press:

The Ethiopian Free Press Journalists' Association (EFPJA) issued a statement announcing that it has received a certificate of legal recognition as of March 13, 2000 as notified by a letter from the Ministry of Justice. The statement said this event marked the culmination of a struggle for recognition in the past seven years (*Tomar, March 15*).

The Ethiopian Free Press Journalists' Association (EFPJA) has disclosed that seven private newspapers were forced out of the market because of increasing printing costs and low circulation. Another ten have been suspended because they could not show that they had a capital of 10,000 birr (*Tobia, Dec. 16*).

Other Issues:

The U.S. State Department's annual report on human rights that came out on Feb. 25, reportedly rated Ethiopia's human rights record as poor. It commented that the 15-year jail sentence passed on Dr. Taye Wolde Semayat exceeded expectations. In further detail, the report mentioned the expulsion of Eritreans from Ethiopia, violence by security forces against people in southern Ethiopia who protested against the imposition of a new language, persecution of persons suspected of association with the OLF, long detention in prison of suspects without being brought to court, inability of the judiciary to uphold justice because of shortage of trained staff (*Menelik, March 3*).

The Ethiopian Human Rights Council (EHRCO) issued a statement on Dec. 14, 1999, titled "Human Rights Violations Against the People of North Omo". In the statement, EHRCO accused zonal, regional and federal officials as well as security forces in North Omo zone of violating the rights of the Welaita, Ari and Mali peoples since Jan. 1999. According to the statement, 79 people are being held illegally; seven students, peasants and others had been killed; 11 had been shot and wounded, while 10 were beaten with clubs. Ten people were taken away and have since disappeared. 29 were detained and released, and 136 were forcibly transferred to other places of work. EHRCO asked for the release of all those who are being held illegally, return to their work all those who had been suspended and transferred, and bring to trial state officials who violated citizens' human and democratic rights (*Tobia, Dec. 16*).

The draft bills for establishing the Human Rights Commission and the office of the Ombudsman will be presented for discussion at a public hearing on Dec. 17. The documents were earlier deliberated by the House of Peoples' Representatives which referred them to the Legal Affairs Standing Committee for further examination (*Radio Ethiopia*, Dec. 15).

Former Ethiopian military dictator, Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam has returned to his safe haven in Harare after Ethiopian authorities and human rights organizations requested the South African government to extradite him. The ex-communist strongman left South Africa on Dec. 3, 1999 only hours before South African leaders received Ethiopia's official extradition request (VOA, Dec. 8).

Internal Security

Ten heavily armed men attacked a Doctors Without Borders vehicle in eastern Ethiopia killing the Ethiopian driver and seriously injuring a foreign aid volunteer, the humanitarian aid group said. The attack took place between Jijiga and Degehabur in Ethiopia's Ogaden region. The group said it was suspending programs in the Degehabur area following the incident - the third in the past year involving aid teams - and moving staff to Addis Ababa (*Monitor*, Feb. 10).

It has been reported that six people were shot and wounded when unknown gunmen attacked a passenger bus traveling from Addis Ababa to Gonder, Debre Tabor, Gaynt and Bahr Dar on Dec. 5, 1999. No group has claimed responsibility for the attack (*Ethio-Time*, Dec. 20).

The Acting Minister of Transport and Communications has called on all sections of society to act conceretedly to fight terrorist groups who are causing repeated damages to the Ethio-Djibouti Railway (*Radio Ethiopia*, Nov. 21).



Äthiopien auf der Expo 2000 in Hannover

Von Eggert Götsch

Die Expo 2000 steht unter dem Motto „Mensch-Natur-Technik“. Zu diesem Themenkomplex werden sich über 190 Nationen und internationale Organisationen präsentieren, um Zukunftsvisionen vorzustellen oder konkrete Lösungen globaler Probleme aufzuzeigen. Besonderer Wert wurde auf die Teilnahme von Ländern aus der 3. Welt gelegt. Die Bundesregierung hat 100 Mill.DM allein für die ärmsten Länder bereitgestellt und die GTZ mit der Vorbereitung und Unterstützung der Expo-Teilnahme dieser Staaten beauftragt. So werden sich in der großen Afrikahalle unter dem Management der GTZ 40 afrikanische Staaten vorstellen. Bei der äthiopischen Regierung stieß die Einladung zur Expo auf außerordentliches Interesse. Der Minister für Handel und Industrie, Kassahun Ayele, wurde mit dem Entwurf eines Konzepts beauftragt, und bereits im Juni 1997 legte Äthiopien (übrigens als zweites Land überhaupt, nach der Schweiz) ein detailliertes Themen-Statement vor, mit dem Leitmotto : „Preserving Biodiversity in the Cradle of Mankind“. Dieser Entwurf war so überzeugend, daß Äthiopien als einziges afrikanisches Land (südlich der Sahara) einen eigenen Pavillon erhielt. Auf einer Fläche von 1200 m² werden auf neun Ständen verschiedene Beispiele für nachhaltige Entwicklung im Land gezeigt. Der äthiopische Pavillon befindet sich neben dem Expo-Office nahe dem Eingang-Ost.

Die Kosten des äthiopischen Engagements belaufen sich auf ca. 6Mill.DM. Davon tragen die äthiopische und die deutsche Regierung je ein Viertel. Der Rest wird von Geschäftsleuten und Sponsoren aus Addis Abeba übernommen. Die äthiopische Regierung setzt

große Erwartungen in die Expo-Teilnahme:

1. Verbesserung des Images, das Äthiopien in der Vorstellung vieler Menschen hat; nach dem Motto: Äthiopien hat mehr zu bieten, als Katastrophen und Armut.
2. Ausländische Partner und potentielle Investoren sollen auf die vielfältigen Anlagemöglichkeiten im Lande hingewiesen werden.
3. Die Präsentation der Schönheit des Landes soll Besucher inspirieren, Äthiopien zu besuchen.

Die äthiopische Regierung hofft, daß als Folge der Expo-Teilnahme viele neue Arbeitsplätze entstehen könnten.

Die außerordentliche Vielfalt im Lande sowohl in kultureller und historischer, als auch in biologischer und landwirtschaftlicher Hinsicht nachhaltig zu nutzen und für die kommenden Generationen zu erhalten, könnte man als das Hauptanliegen der Ausstellungsmacher bezeichnen.

Mit Hilfe modernster Präsentationstechnik und virtueller Realität zeigt Äthiopien sein kulturelles Erbe (z.B. das Skelett von „Lucy“, das historische Axum, die Monolithkirchen von Lalibela etc.), die Schönheit seiner Landschaften und, als besonderen Schwerpunkt, die außerordentliche Vielfalt der von unzähligen Generationen äthiopischer Bauern gezüchteter Nutzpflanzen und die Bedeutung dieses einzigartigen Schatzes für die Menschheit.

Die Menschen in Äthiopien waren immer wieder gezwungen, angepaßte Methoden zu entwickeln, um ihr Überleben in einem hochsensiblen Ökosystem zu sichern, ohne die natürlichen Ressourcen zu zerstören. Einige dieser traditionellen Techniken sind so optimal an die Gegebenheiten angepaßt, daß sie bis heute in Gebrauch sind. Beispiele werden dem Besucher gezeigt.

Die neun Stände des äthiopischen Pavillons haben folgende Themen:

1. Äthiopien die Wiege der Menschheit („Lucy“).
2. Äthiopien die Heimat des Kaffes (und dessen natürlicher Anbau),

3. Harar: die traditionelle Organisation einer städtischen Gemeinschaft,
4. Biologische Vielfalt: Präsentation der äth. Genbank,
5. Die Ensete-Kultur: ein Beispiel für angepaßte nachhaltige Landwirtschaft,
6. Endod (*Phytolacca dodecandra*): ein abbaubares natürliches Produkt (u.a. zur biologischen Bekämpfung der Bilharziose),
7. Tigray: Renaturierung einer degradierten Landschaft,
8. Konso: ein traditionelles Landnutzungssystem unter semi-ariden Bedingungen,
9. Axum und Lalibela: das historische Erbe.

Darüberhinaus werden äthiopische Künstler sich an den zahlreichen kulturellen Veranstaltungen der Expo beteiligen:

Musik, Tanz, Malerei, Skulptur, Kunsthändwerk und religiöse Zeremonien. Ein besonders festlicher Höhepunkt wird sicherlich die Feier des traditionellen Neujahrsfestes am 11.9. 2000 im äthiopischen Pavillon sein.

Technische Hinweise:

Die Expo ist vom 1.6.- 31.10. täglich von 9-24 Uhr geöffnet (Pavillons bis 21.30 Uhr).

Ganztageskarte:

69,- DM im Vorverkauf

79,- DM am Eingang

89,- DM am Wochenende

Für Kinder gibt es Ermäßigung.

Weitere Informationen:

Tel.: 0 - 2000 (60 Pf pro Minute)

Internet: www.expo2000.de

Journalist Attend Training on Gender Reporting

DEBRE ZEIT, Dec. 7, 2000 (ENA) - The private media in Ethiopia are mainly "gender insensitive" and do not seriously consider women's issues, according to most of the participants of a five-day training course on "Gender Reporting" organized by The Heinrich Boll Foundation and held at the Debre Zeit Management Institute.

Some 15 journalists from the state and private media took part in the training. The foundation had earlier conducted about seven fora to deliberate on gender related issues.

CD of Bodo Fossils found in Afar Depression published

CD-ROM of Bodo skull—a newly discovered 600,000 year old fossils of human skull found in the Afar depression of Ethiopia.

The recording and publishing of the findings of the Bodo human skull is an attempt to make information about precious fossils available to the international scientific community as useful research data. The embassy said that the publishing of the CD enables Ethiopia to be recognized as a keeper of world heritage objects which should be made available to researchers throughout the world.

The CD-ROM was published in such a way that a special software can reconstruct a three-dimensional object on the computer screen and allows manipulations such as magnifying, rotating, partitioning, sectioning, translating and measuring images. CD-ROM makes it possible for researchers to look inside the objects without disassembling the original, priceless specimen. The scan also permits data to be analyzed in three dimensions, both externally and internally, in laboratories throughout the world, the embassy added.

The CD is available at the Institute of Anthropology in the University of Vienna at 50 USD and the proceeds will support the efforts of the National Museum of Ethiopia.

Project Launched to Clean the City of Addis Ababa

17.12.1999 A project to clean the city, a brainchild of the singer and composer, Seleshi Demessie, was launched with hundreds of mainly young people engaged in cleaning activities.

The project entitled "Music Youth and Environment" has 10,000 student members.

Launching the project, Ato Dawit Yohannes, Speaker of the House of Peoples' Representatives, praised Ato Seleshi for his efforts to raise awareness on pollution, deforestation and garbage disposal. He also urged pertinent organizations and city dwellers to "join hands in cleaning the city."

Most of the trainees agreed that as the private media are essentially profit-motivated, they do not focus on women's issue. The participants also observed that some advertisements and dramas, broadcaster on TV and Radio are gender insensitive and reflect biased social attitudes towards women, Ms. Indra Bisewak, coordinator at the foundation, said on the occasion.

"Since the government has recognized gender equality and the need for women's advancement as reflected in the Federal Constitution and the women's policy, journalists should play their role accordingly," she said.

EGS Carrying out Study on Lake Awassa

Addis Ababa Feb. 6, 2000 (ENA)

The Ethiopian Geological Survey (EGS) has announced that it is carrying out a study to preempt the lurking dangers posed by the increase in volume of the Awassa Lake. The study launched last Ethiopian budget year with 1,089,000 birr budget is expected to be completed next year.

The study has already confirmed siltation caused by erosion as the major cause for the bulging lake waters, he said. Erosion is worsening the problem in the area due to depletion of forests.

Eight Soil Test Laboratories Under Construction

ADDIS ABABA, Nov. 26, 1999
(WIC)

Eight soil test laboratories are under construction in Bahir Dar, Zway, Dessie, Awassa, Wolkite, Bedele, Gambela and Mekele with an outlay of 6.7 million Birr.

The laboratories will enable farmers of the respective communities have their soil tested and then obtain the type of fertilizers that best suits their crop fields.

The construction of these laboratories is an integral part of the national programme of increasing agriculture productivity.

The number of the country's fertilizer users has increased from 12 per cent some years ago to 30 per cent at present, it was learnt.

A study has recommended that a total of between 50 to 60 soil laboratories need to be established

Mitgliederversammlung des DÄV

vom 11.- 13. März 2000 in Göttingen

Die offizielle MV begann am Samstag morgen mit einer Begrüßung durch Lutz Crackau. Lutz Crackau und Fekade S. Bemnet gaben gleich zu Beginn ihren Rückzug aus der Vorstandarbeit bekannt. Sie nannten private Gründe für den Entschluß die Vorstandarbeit nicht weiter fortführen zu wollen. Dann folgte der

Bericht über die bisherigen Tätigkeiten

1. Ideenwettbewerb am Awassa College of Agriculture (ACA)

Bericht von Bernhard Schulte-Kemna: Aus 16 Vorschlägen zum Thema „How to solve a big agricultural problem of peasants (in my home village) in a self-help way“ wurden von Lehrern des ACA und Bernhard ein 1. Preis (1200 Birr) und drei 2. Preise (je 600 Birr) ausgewählt.

Geplant war, dass der Wettbewerb über 3 Jahre laufen soll. Bernhard hat jedoch noch keine Rückmeldung, ob dies weiterverfolgt wird; evtl. hängt dieses mit der z. Zt. stattfindenden Umwandlung des College in die Southern University zusammen.

2. Sounds of Saba - Mannheim 1999

Bericht von Lutz Crackau:

Rd. 250 Zuhörer waren zu der eindrucksvollen Veranstaltung - organisiert von den Freunden der

Kulturen Afrikas - gekommen. Da mit 350 Zuhörern gerechnet wurde, musste die Ausfallbürgschaft in Anspruch genommen werden (Anteil DÄV = 435 DM, Rest AGOS).

3. Homepage

Bericht von Klaus Mechelke: Die Domain ist bei Strato beantragt; unter „<http://www.deutsch-aethiopischer-verein.de>“ wird unser Verein in Kürze erreichbar sein. Kosten: einmalig 49 DM, zuzügl. monatl. 9,95 DM. Jedes Vereinsmitglied kann eine eigene E-mail Adresse erhalten mit Weiterleitung an die eigene E-mail Adresse. Die Inhalte der Homepage sollen noch in einer Arbeitsgruppe festgelegt werden. Die Beachtung des Copyrights wurde angesprochen; hierzu soll bei Konrad Melchers (epd) noch Rat eingeholt werden.

4. Circus Ethiopia

Bericht von Lutz Crackau: Die aus DÄV-Mitteln gekauften Bühnenhilfsmittel befinden sich noch immer im Zoll in Addis Ababa. Lutz bemüht sich weiterhin um eine Lösung, ist aber enttäuscht über das fehlende Engagement von

Circus Ethiopia, die Anlage aus dem Zoll zu holen. Circus Ethiopia kommt dieses Jahr nicht nach Deutschland.

5. Rundbriefe des DÄV

Bericht von Helga Tewes:

Im letzten Jahr sind 3 Rundbriefe mit insgesamt 70 Seiten erschienen. Diskutiert wurde über die Möglichkeiten der günstigsten Verteilung in Äthiopien (Ausw. Amt/Botschaft; auch Marliese Rothweiler-Spohn hat ihre Hilfe angeboten).

6. AG Landwirtschaft / Moringa

Bericht von Eggert Götsch, Bernhard Schulte-Kemna und Rudolf Schoppmann:

Der Samen der Moringa-Pflanze ist zur Reinigung von trübem Flusswasser geeignet. Aschalew Hunde ist bereit, eine Evaluierung in Qola Shara bei Arba Minch vorzunehmen um festzustellen, welche Erfahrungen die Bevölkerung seit der Durchführung der Feldstudie 1995 gemacht hat und welche Möglichkeiten der Verbreitung dieser Pflanze bestehen.

Mittlerweile verfügen wir über umfangreiches Material über die vielseitigen Nutzungsmöglichkeiten von Moringa (Senegal, Tschad, Burundi, Malawi, Sri Lanka) und Untersuchungsergebnisse u. a. von Universitäten aus Kanada, USA (Moringa-Homepage), Großbritannien, Deutschland.

Bernhard hat ein Video über Moringa im letzten Jahr im Awassa College und in Wondo Genet übergeben und die Einsatzmöglichkeiten angesprochen.

Das weitere Vorgehen sollte in der Arbeitsgruppe diskutiert werden.

7. AG Literaturwettbewerb

Bericht von Lutz Crackau:
Es gab keine Aktivitäten.

8. AG Initiative zur Förderung der gewaltlosen Konfliktlösung in Äthiopien

Bericht von Harmen Storck:
Bisher besteht Kontakt zur Schule der Evangelischen Gemeinde Deutscher Sprache. Mit Herrn Benhöfer vom Nds. Missionswerk Hermannsburg wurde Kontakt aufgenommen; evtl. besteht die Möglichkeit der Zusammenarbeit mit der Mekane Yesus Church. Der DÄV - insbes. auch Herr Frey, der das Schulsystem dort sehr gut kennt - könnte evtl. Kontakte zu Lehrerausbildungsstätten und ggf. einzelnen Schulen herstellen. Auch die Stiftungen in Deutschland könnten für dieses Thema interessiert werden. Welche traditionellen Konfliktlösungspraktiken existieren in Äthiopien? Wird dort Literatur zur Konfliktbewältigung benötigt? Das weitere Vorgehen sollte in einer Arbeitsgruppe diskutiert werden.

Der Samstag wurde im wesentlichen damit verbracht die bereits bestehenden

Arbeitsgruppen

weiterzuentwickeln und die das weitere Engagement des Vereins zu planen.

Es gab AG's zu folgenden Themen:

- a) Rundbriefe (grobe Themensammlung); inkl. Konflikt Äth./Eritr. in Deutschland
- b) Homepage / Faltblatt
- c) Landwirtschaft / Moringa
- d) Gewaltfreie Konfliktlösung in Äthiopien
- e) Ideenwettbewerb in Awassa

Der Literaturwettbewerb und die Vermittlung von Paten-/Partnerschaften zwischen TU / TH wurde nicht weiterverfolgt.

1. Protokoll der Arbeitsgruppe Moringa

Teilnehmer: Bernhard Schulte-Kemna, Olaf Dorn, Rudolf Schoppmann, Eggert Götsch

Die Arbeitsgruppe „Moringa“ des DÄV wurde im März 1999 in Kassel ins Leben gerufen. Im vergangenen Jahr konnten wir unseren Wissenstand über Moringa allgemein und insbesondere über die Wasserbehandlung mit Moringasamen beträchtlich erweitern.

Rudolf wurde vor allem im Internet fündig. Mehrere Arbeitsgruppen weltweit befassen sich wissenschaftlich und praktisch mit den Anwendungsmöglichkeiten der verschiedenen Moringa-Arten (vor allem M. oleifera). Weitere Informationen erhielten wir von Organisationen, die das Pflanzenmaterial bereits in Projekten in verschiedenen afrikanischen Ländern anwenden, sowie aus wissenschaftlichen Publikationen. Damit ist die Informations-sammlung weitgehend abgeschlossen. Uns fehlen jetzt noch die entsprechenden Erfahrungen aus Äthiopien. Aschalew Hunde, unser Ansprechpartner vor Ort, ist bereit, seine Feldstudien aus dem Jahre 1995 in Quola Shara zu evaluieren. Was ist nach 5 Jahren von diesem so vielversprechenden Projekt übrig geblieben?

Wir haben einen Evaluierungsbogen erarbeitet, an Hand dessen Aschalew sein damaliges Projekt überprüfen wird. Der DÄV hat für diese mehrtägige Unternehmung 3000 EB zur Verfügung gestellt. Im Januar diesen Jahres hat Aschalew unserem Vorschlag zugestimmt.

Am AWTI (Arba Minch Water Technology Institute) hat vor mehreren Jahren (1995?) ein workshop zum Thema „Moringa“ stattgefunden. Wir wollen versuchen, eine Kopie des

Seminarberichtes zu erhalten. Bernhard hat Kontakt zur GTZ in Äthiopien aufgenommen. Dort wird derzeit in keinem

Projekt mit Moringa gearbeitet. Im Jahre 1999 hat jedoch eine Mitarbeiterin ein Manual mit dem Titel „Cleaning the Water with Moringa Seeds“ angefertigt. Es handelt sich um eine illustrierte Gebrauchsanweisung für die Anwendung von Moringasamen. Eine erste Fassung liegt uns zur Kommentierung vor. Vielleicht wäre es sinnvoll, bei der Erstellung eines derartigen Manuals die Zielgruppe deutlicher zu definieren und getrennte Exemplare für Lehrer und Schüler zu verfassen.

Unser weiteres Vorgehen wird in starkem Maße vom Ausgang der Evaluierung in Quola Shara bestimmt werden. Rudolf wird zunächst die uns vorliegenden relevanten Fakten zu Moringa zusammenfassen (max. 2 Seiten!), damit wir in der Lage sind, unsere äthiopischen Ansprechpartner komprimiert über die bisherigen Ergebnisse zu informieren. Diese Zusammenfassung sowie ein überarbeitetes Manual sollen dann Teil einer „Moringa-Mappe“, sein. In dieser Mappe wollen wir auch deutlich machen, welches Anliegen der DÄV

mit der Propagierung von Moringa verfolgt. Wir haben geplant, die Mappe in zwei leicht veränderten Versionen zu erstellen. Eine Version wird den Schwerpunkt Ernährung haben

(für Home – Economic Departments verschiedener Institutionen), in der anderen sollen land- und forstwirtschaftliche Aspekte im Vordergrund stehen (für entsprechende Colleges, Behörden, Baumschulen etc.).

Mit diesen Mappen, die auch als eine Art Handreichung für Lehrende verstanden werden könnten, wollen wir uns zunächst an folgende drei Institutionen wenden:

- 1) Forst College in Wondo Genet
- 2) Arba Minch Water Technology Institute
- 3) Awassa College of Agriculture (Home-Economic Section)

Bei positiver Resonanz kämen auch die Universität von Alemaya, sowie die Colleges in Ambo und Jimma und das Kotebe Teacher Training Institute (Home-Economic Section) in Frage.

Über Anregungen und weitere Informationen würden wir uns sehr freuen. Wir stellen auch gern unser Material zur Verfügung.

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2. Protokoll der Arbeitsgruppe zum Training in gewaltfreier Konfliktbearbeitung in äthiopischen Schulen und sonstigen Bildungseinrichtungen

TeilnehmerInnen: Rüdiger Frey,
 Magdalene Kunze, Harmen Storck

Im vergangenen Jahr wurde zunächst Kontakt mit der Schule der Deutschen Gemeinde in Addis Abeba aufgenommen. Frau Sabine Peter wurde mit deutschsprachiger Literatur zum Thema versorgt. Sie will es in diesem Schuljahr im Unterricht testen, uns über ihre Erfahrungen berichten und Vorschläge machen, wie wir weiter verfahren könnten, um diese Thematik in äthiopischen Schulen zu verbreiten. Herr Frey wird in dieser Angelegenheit Kontakt mit dem neuen Pastor der Gemeinde aufnehmen. Die Suche nach englisch sprachlicher Literatur zum Thema hatte erste Ergebnisse. Für die weitere Verwendung scheint das Buch: "Playing with Fire. Creative Conflict resolution for Young Adults" von Fiona Macbeth & Nic Fine geeignet, besonders für die Arbeit mit Studenten an Colleges. Weitere Literatur wird noch gesichtet und beschafft.

Eine Erläuterung des Vorhabens in englischer Sprache und ein Aufruf zur Unterstützung wurden verfasst. Darin wird angeboten, Interessenten an der Einführung dieser Problematik in ihre Kurse mit Literatur zu versorgen und sie zu beraten. Der Aufruf soll in die nächsten Mitteilungen des DÄV aufgenommen werden.

Die Erläuterungen werden zunächst von Magdalene Kunze an W/o Yeweljew, Awassa College, Dep.Home Science & Technology, und an Ato Tesfey, SOS Kinderdorf Awassa mit der Bitte um Mitarbeit verschickt. Harmen Storck wird das SOS Kinderdorf in Harar deshalb kontaktieren.

Ferner werden angeschrieben und um Unterstützung bei der Suche nach Kontakten in Äthiopien gebeten: DED, Addis Abeba, Referat für einheimische Organisationen Hermansburger Mission, Addis Abeba, Herr Kalmbach Friedrich-Ebert- und Heinrich-Böll-

Stiftung in Addis Abeba Wolfgang Heinrich, EEB, Bonn Herr Frey wird im Ökumenischen Rat der Kirchen in Genf nach Initiativen auf diesem Gebiet erkundigen und prüfen, ob wir unterstützt werden können.

Wir hoffen, dass das Echo auf diese Schritte uns ermöglicht, in einer Pilotphase erste Erfahrungen zu sammeln, um weitere Schritte realisieren zu können. Gedacht ist u. a. an ein Trainings-Seminar für an dem Projekt beteiligte LehrerInnen. An die MV wird der Antrag gestellt, im Haushaltsplan für 2000 für Literatur einen Betrag von DM 500,- vorzusehen.

Ende: 15.30
 Harmen Storck

3. Protokoll der Arbeitsgruppe Ideenwettbewerb

TN: Magdalene Kunze, Ute Haferburg, Olaf Dorn und Bernhard Schulte – Kemna

Ausgehend von der Ungewißheit, ob und wie der Wettbewerb in den letzten Monaten durchgeführt worden ist, wurde zunächst diskutiert, was die Durchführung eines solchen (zumindest für uns Europäer extrem motivierenden,) prestigeträchtigen, Kreativität fördernden und Studenten fordern Wettbewerbes erschweren oder behindern könnte: die Umformung des ACA zur „Southern University“, Arbeitsmehrbelastung für das Lehrpersonal, zu hohe Preisgelder für die Studenten (und infolge davon evtl. „Neidgefühle“ der Lehrer) und simples Vergessen, die Ausschreibung zur richtigen Zeit auszuhängen, waren einige Vermutungen.

Zur Weiterentwicklung des Wettbewerbes wurde angeregt: - die Fragestellung des Wettbewerbes sollte dahingehend verändert werden, daß nicht nur nach Problemlösungen für landwirtschaftliche Probleme gefragt wird, sondern weitergefasst nach Problemen des „ländlichen Raumes“. Dadurch würde auch den Studenten der „Home

Economic Section“ die Teilnahme ermöglicht. Die Verbesserung der Lagerhaltung, die Behandlung von verschmutztem Trinkwasser, oder die Entwicklung neuer Geräte zur Essens- und Getränkezubereitung beispielsweise könnten natürlich ebenso wie landwirtschaftliche Lösungsvorschläge die Situation auf dem Land verbessern.

- der Wettbewerb könnte zukünftig an allen landwirtschaftlichen Ausbildungsstätten in Äthiopien durchgeführt werden, an denen der „Bachelor“ Abschluß erreicht werden kann. Das wäre nach jetziger Kenntnis: in Awassa, Alemaya und Mekelle. Obwohl der organisatorische Aufwand damit beträchtlich zunimmt, würde aber der Wettbewerb zwischen den Studenten (und Unis / Colleges), sowie die Qualität ebenfalls beträchtlich gesteigert.

Nachdem der laufende Ideenwettbewerb mit dem ACA für 3 Jahre vereinbart wurde, sollten die Änderungen erst anschließend eingeführt werden. Bei der anschließenden Besprechung im Plenum wurde ins Auge gefasst, schon mal Kontakt zu Mekelle und Alemaya aufzunehmen. Harmen Storck hat Kontakt zu beiden.

4. Protokoll der Arbeitsgruppe Rundbrief

Teilnehmer: Helga Tewes, Ursula Scheubel, Fekade S. Bemnet, Berhane Geremew, Rüdiger Frey, Shimeles Tassew, Seyoum Mulugeta, Lutz Crackau

Der äthiopisch-eritreische Konflikt kristallisierte sich nach kurzer Zeit als Hauptthema der Arbeitsgruppendiskussion heraus. Wir versuchten zu erörtern, wie wir diese und die Situation vieler in Deutschland lebender Äthiopier und Eritreer zu Papier bringen konnten. Auslöser waren Berichte über das Austragen und Schören des Konflikts von Angehörigen der Volksgruppen am Horn von Afrika sogar im Exil.

Hierzu auch der Bericht auf Seite 1. Gesucht werden Beiträge zur Aufspaltung innerhalb der äthiopischen Gemeinde in Deutschland. Beispielsweise werden äthiopische und eritreische Kneipen und Restaurants von den entsprechenden Volksgruppen gemieden, hinzu kommen Spaltungen innerhalb der Gruppen (z.B. EPLF und ELF). Wir versuchen, verschiedene äthiopische Journalisten um Beiträge anzufragen.

Auch viele deutsche Behörden lassen kaum etwas unversucht, Asylsuchenden das Leben so schwer wie möglich zu machen. Die Darstellung der Erfahrungen Betroffener wäre für uns interessant. Beispiel: die sogenannte „Altfallregelung“ nach der auch einige Äthiopier eine Aufenthaltsgenehmigung erhalten könnten. Dieses Verfahren ist allerdings derart kompliziert, daß kaum jemand die vielen „Hürden“ schafft.

In Äthiopien versteht man in puncto „freier Meinungsäußerung“ momentan keinen Spaß. Rüdiger Frey berichtete, daß das Pfarramt in Addis Abeba neu zu besetzen war. Der Bewerber für diese Stelle bekam kein Visum, weil er einen Friedensaufruf an die äthiopische und eritreische Botschaft schickte.

Unsere Ziele wurden folgendermaßen abgesteckt:

- Äthiopier und Eritreer an einen Tisch zu bekommen (aufgeklärte Personen, keine politisierenden!)
- Aufruf von Äthiopiern und Eritreern im Exil, die kriegerischen Handlungen einzustellen und die Ressourcen für die Entwicklung der Länder zu nutzen.
- Der deutschen Bevölkerung zeigen, daß es auch „andere“ Äthiopier und Eritreer gibt, die dem Unsinn Krieg ein Ende setzen wollen.
- Über Schikanen in deutschen Behörden gegenüber äthiopischen und eritreischen Landsleuten berichten und aufklären.

Wir diskutierten die Frage, ob es sinnvoll sei, hierzu eine Veranstaltung zu planen. Es sollte in einem solchen Fall kein politischer „runder Tisch“ sein (deren es auch im Augenblick einige gibt), sondern etwas mit Kultur und Tanz zu tun haben. Die Durchführung wird wahrscheinlich mangels „man oder womenpower“ scheitern.

Auf jeden Fall sollte ein vereinseigener Aufruf geschrieben werden. Ein Aufruf an alle in Deutschland lebenden Äthiopier und Eritreer, sich für die Beendigung des Konfliktes einzusetzen, das Schüren des Hasses vor allem im Exil zu beenden und vor allem sich von hier aus für eine Verständigung zwischen Eritreern und Äthiopiern einzusetzen.

Sich aus dem Genannten ergebende Themen sind:

- Wie kommt es, daß sich so viele Äthiopier und Eritreer freiwillig für den Kampf gemeldet haben?
 - Wie verlief das Leben der ehemaligen Soldaten und Soldatinnen in der Zivilgesellschaft? Stichwort Lebensgemeinschaften von Soldatinnen. Auch über massive psychische Probleme ehemaliger Kämpfer und Kämpferinnen wurde berichtet.
- Eine wissenschaftliche Arbeit über die Demobilisierung der KämpferInnen und deren Rückführung in die Gesellschaft in der Region Tigray hat Stefanie Krug (Mitglied) geschrieben. Wir versuchen, an diese Arbeit zu kommen und sie auszuwerten.
- Hintergrund: Ein GTZ-Projekt in Tigray zur Demobilisierung scheiterte, weil sich die dortigen KämpferInnen geschlossen für den Krieg meldeten.

Weitere Schwerpunktthemen für die zukünftigen Informationsblätter werden sein:

- Entwicklungszusammenarbeit Deutschland – Äthiopien
- Frauen in Äthiopien
- Gesundheit in Äthiopien o.ä. (AIDS, Malaria, etc.)

Um Beiträge bitten wir.

Die Redaktion bleibt weiterhin bei Helga Tewes und Lutz Crackau.

Mitgliederversammlung des Vereins am 12. März 2000

Nach den notwendigen Vereinsformalien, dem Bericht des Kassenwarts, Entlastung des Kassenwartes und des Vorstands wurde die Neuwahl des Vorstands durchgeführt.

Lutz Crackau stellt wegen Arbeitsüberlastung sein Amt als 1. Vorsitzender zur Verfügung. Rudolf Schoppmann wird als Nachfolger gewählt und nimmt das Amt an.

Fekade-Selassie Bemnet bat um Entlastung vom Amt des Schriftführers. Abel Debalque wird als sein Nachfolger gewählt und nimmt die Wahl an.

Helga Tewes und Bernhard Schulte-Kemna bleiben noch für ein weiteres Jahr im Amt.

Helga Tewes und Harmen Stork danken dem scheidenden Vorsitzenden Lutz Crackau für seinen großen und erfolgreichen Einsatz für den DÄV. Er hat viel zu der kreativen und aktiven Atmosphäre im Verein beigetragen.

Haushaltplan

Der Haushaltplan 2000 wird beschlossen. Näheres dazu im Gesamtprotokoll der MV.

Zu Kassenprüfern für 2000 werden Lutz Crackau und Klaus Mechelke gewählt.

MV 2001

↗ Bitte notieren !!!

Die Mitgliederversammlung 2001 findet vom

16. – 18. März 2001

im Waldschlösschen bei Göttingen, ersatzweise in Kassel statt. Heidelberg wird von etlichen Teilnehmern bevorzugt, aber wegen der weiten Entfernung aus Norddeutschland nicht gewählt.

Es soll wieder ein Referent für die MV 2001 gewonnen werden. Als Arbeitsthema wird der Bereich "Konfliktlösung mit traditionellen und gewaltfreien Mitteln" vorgesehen.

Selbstdarstellung/Faltblatt

Das Faltblatt soll möglichst bald erstellt werden. Einen Textentwurf macht Ursula Scheubel bis Ende März. Er wird von Lutz und Helga überarbeitet.

Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevölkerung (DSW)

Syga: Jugendliche nehmen ihr Leben selbst in die Hand

In Äthiopien haben sich Jugendliche dem Kampf gegen AIDS, ungewollte Schwangerschaften und Tabus im Umgang mit dem Thema Sexualität verschrieben. Die Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevölkerung (DSW) unterstützt dort ein Netzwerk von Selbsthilfegruppen, in denen junge Leute Gleichaltrige über Sexualität, Verhütung und die Immunschwächekrankheit aufklären. Und sie erhalten gleichzeitig die Möglichkeit, eine Berufsausbildung zu machen.

Äthiopien ist ein "junges Land". Mehr als die Hälfte der Menschen sind jünger als 18 Jahre alt - sie sind die Mütter und Väter von morgen. Ihre Zukunftsperspektiven in diesem bettelarmen Land am Horn von Afrika sind trübe. Die Jugendarbeitslosigkeit liegt in Äthiopien bei mehr als 70 Prozent. Prostitution ist für viele junge Frauen eine der wenigen Einkommensquellen.

Sowohl Informationen über Sexualität und Verhütung als auch Kontrazeptiva sind für die meisten Jugendlichen überhaupt nicht oder nur schwer zugänglich. Zwölf Prozent der jungen Äthiopierinnen im Alter von 15 bis 19 Jahren bekommen jährlich ein Kind, zumeist ungeplant. Und es gibt ein weiteres Problem: AIDS. Nach Angaben der äthiopischen Regierung haben sich 1,7 Millionen der 58 Millionen Einwohner mit dem HI-Virus infiziert, Hilfsorganisationen schätzen ihre Zahl mehr als doppelt so hoch. Bei 350.000 Äthiopiern ist die Krankheit ausgebrochen. Die meisten sind zwischen 20 und 39 Jahren alt.

Sexualität und AIDS: Jugendliche wollen das Schweigen brechen Seit sich der AIDS-Virus in Äthiopien ausbreitet, haben Jugendliche in Addis Abeba, der äthiopischen Hauptstadt, eine Gegenbewegung gestartet. In eigenen Anti-AIDS-Clubs diskutieren sie über die Krankheit und wie man sich davor schützen kann. Aus dieser Bewegung ist "Save Your Generation Association" (SYGA) entstanden, die ihre Ziele bewußt weiter faßt. Andere Aspekte der Sexualität wie die Verhütung ungewollter Schwangerschaften werden neben AIDS ebenfalls thematisiert. Das ist wichtig, denn selbst jungen Äthiopiern fällt es schwer, über Sexualität zu sprechen.

SYGA möchte dieses Schweigen brechen. Ohne Geld und Räume startete SYGA 1991, heute zählt die Organisation über 7.000 aktive Mitglieder. Seit 1995 wird die Jugendorganisation von der Deutschen Stiftung Weltbevölkerung unterstützt. Ihre Mitglieder informieren Jugendliche und auch Eltern über Familienplanung und Verhütung, erklären die Risiken einer zu frühen Schwangerschaft und verteilen Kondome - in der Nachbarschaft, in Schulen oder bei den beliebten Straßentheateraufführungen von SYGA. Von ihren Büros in Addis Abeba, Nazareth und Debrezeth aus entfalten sie ihre Aktivitäten wie Training von Jugendberatern für die Aufklärungsarbeit mit Jugendlichen oder neue Initiativen für einkommensschaffende Maßnahmen. Wer sich bei SYGA engagiert, erhält - mit Ausnahme der elf hauptamtlichen Mitarbeiter - keinen Lohn. Dafür wird er oder sie ausgebildet entweder in Theater- oder Musikworkshops oder in Näh- und Tischlerkursen. Denn die Jugendberater brauchen einen Anreiz, um mitzumachen.

Die Geschäftsstelle von SYGA in Addis Abeba ist zugleich das Zentrum für ein landesweites Netzwerk derartiger Selbsthilfe-Initiativen, dessen Aufbau und Erweiterung die Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevölkerung maßgeblich unterstützt. Es soll in den nächsten drei Jahren weiter ausgebaut werden, damit immer mehr junge Leute erreicht werden.

Dieses DSW-Projekt wurde im Februar 1998 als internationales Projekt der Weltausstellung EXPO 2000 in Hannover anerkannt. Schon für 120 DM im Monat kann ein weiterer hauptamtlicher Jugendberater angestellt werden.

Wir können nur helfen, wenn Sie uns helfen.

Alle Spenden fließen zu 100 Prozent in die Projektarbeit. Bitte überweisen Sie Ihre Spende auf folgendes Konto:

Spendenkonto:

3838380, Commerzbank Hannover,
BLZ 25040066

Wenn Sie für das DSW-Projekt SYGA per Kreditkarte spenden wollen, gehen Sie bitte zurück auf die Spendenseite von wirecard:
<http://spenden.wirecard.de/dsw/frame.html>.

Weitere Infos unter
<http://www.griot.de/biosave.html>



Buch- und Lesetips

„Kinder, Kinder“ Nr.11

Robinson in Äthiopien

Das Heft Robinson in Äthiopien der Kindernothilfe wurde neu bearbeitet. Die aktualisierte und erweiterte Ausgabe beinhaltet Infos über Trinkwasser, seinen weltweiten Verbrauch und die Folgen von Wassermangel. Außerdem enthält es Ideen für einen Wasserworkshop, der sich an Kindern in der Grundschule richtet. Und dann gibt es noch ein äthiopisches Waisenhaus, das mit Kuhmist Strom erzeugt.

Unterrichtsmaterialien der Kindernothilfe, zu beziehen über

Kindernothilfe e.V.
Postfach 281143
47241 Duisburg

Homepages

Der Deutsch-Äthiopische-Verein ist ab sofort im Internet

<http://www.deutsch-aethiopischer-verein.de>

Die Musikgruppe „Sounds of Saba“ ist jetzt ebenfalls im Internet erreichbar unter

<http://www.sounds-of-saba.de>



Ethnizität und Konflikte

epd 6/2000

Die Zeitschrift epd Nr. 6/2000 setzt sich in der Ausgabe zum Thema Ethnizität und Konflikte, auch mit den Konflikten zwischen Eritrea und Äthiopien auseinander. Die Beiträge dazu werden im Einleitungswort von Konrad Melchers kurz vorgestellt.

„Dieter Oberndörfer verdeutlicht in seinem Beitrag, dass die Entwicklungszusammenarbeit in Äthiopien sich ökonomisch auf die Abschwächung der strukturellen Konfliktursache Armut konzentriert und deshalb keinen Beitrag zur Beilegung des dominanten ethnopolitischen Konflikts oder gar des Krieges zwischen Äthiopien und Eritrea leisten konnte. Überzeugend analysiert er, wie sozusagen in Umkehrung der immer noch gängigen Politik des zentralistischen „nation-building“ die äthiopische Regierung die Ethnisierung der äthiopischen Politik dazu missbraucht, hinter der Fassade eines Föderalismus

eine ethnische Minderheiten-Vorherrschaft mit zentralistischer Entscheidungsstruktur zu etablieren. Allerdings empfiehlt auch er als EZ-Alternative lediglich die Förderung von „good governance“, anstatt aus seiner Analyse konfliktpezifischere Vorschläge für die EZ zu entwickeln.

Wohin und wie weit Konfliktbearbeitung gehen muss, zeigt Eva-Maria Bruchhaus durch den Vergleich der gegensätzlichen Theorien der nationalen Identitätsfindung, die Alemseged Abbay und Alemseged Tesfai anwenden. Sie sind in zweifacher Hinsicht brisant. Zum einen zeigen sie, dass beide gegensätzliche Theorien in der politischen Praxis erfolgreich, d.h. empirisch relevant sind und zum anderen, dass sie eine wesentliche Ursache des Grenzkrieges sind.