

Ethiopian Embassy in Paris, France

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The rebirth of relations between Ethiopia and France

April 12, 2019

By HenokTeferra

Ambassador of Ethiopia to France

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Ambassador of Ethiopia to France, HenokTeferra will present his credentials on April 12 to French President Emmanuel Macron. The two countries can, in his view, serve as an anchor for renewed and strengthened cooperation between Africa and Europe.

The diplomatic relations of the modern era between Ethiopia and France officially date from 1897. However, already in the eighteenth century, the kings of France had established relations with the Court of Gondar in Ethiopia through their emissaries.

If relations between the two countries reached their peak in the twentieth century under the Emperor Menelik II with the construction of the railway ethio-Djibouti and under the Emperor Haile Selassie I, himself a French-speaking, originally, between Others, from the Franco-Ethiopian High School Guebe-Mariam, it is clear that in recent years this cooperation was far from reaching a satisfactory level.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's visit to France in October 2018, his first in Europe just months after he came to power, followed by President Emmanuel Macron's visit to Ethiopia in March 2019, marked the undoubtedly the beginning of a new era in relations between the two countries.

These two visits have provided a solid foundation for a qualitative and quantitative improvement of the cooperation between the two countries, which will rise to a strategic level. (Excerpt)



H.E Ambassador Henok Teferra presented his credentials to H.E. President Emmanuel Macron

H.E Ambassador Henok Teferra presented his credentials to H.E. President Emmanuel Macron at the Élysée Palace on 12 April 2019.

H.E Ambassador Henok expressed that it's a 'great honor' to present credentials to H.E. President Macron at the Élysée Palace.



H.E Ambassador Henok Teferra held discussions with Ethiopian Diaspora in Lyon, France this weekend, on Saturday (April 13, 2019).

The discussion aims at encouraging the Ethiopians in Lyon and other cities of France to take part in the ongoing developments of their country as well as to put mechanisms of working together in place to solve the challenges the Diaspora face.

H.E Ambassador Henok assured the Diaspora community that the Embassy is home to every Ethiopian residing in France and is fully at the disposal to assist on matters pertaining Ethiopians in France.

The Diaspora community praised the Embassy facilitated the discussion event and underlined their readiness to work closer and together with the Embassy. Con-



Courtesy meeting of H.E Ambassador HenokTeferra in Southern France.

Ambassador HenokTeferra made courtesy call to Honorable Lionnel Luca, Mayor of Villeneuve Loubet, a city outside of Nice in southern France and Vice-President of the Sophia Antipolis Urban Community.

Sophia Antipolis is a major technology park and hub in Europe encompassing tech companies, startups, Labs, and Engineering Schools. The Vice-President agreed to arrange experience sharing and B2B meetings for Ethiopian companies and institutions.



H.E Ambassador Henok Teferra meets with the Mayor of the city of Lyon, H.E. Mr. Gérard Collomb

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H.E Ambassador Henok met with the Mayor of the city of Lyon, H.E. Mr. Gérard Collomb, April 18, 2019. The discussion solicited support for Addis Ababa's beautification project, Sheger Project. The Mayor committed to avail technical support to the project. Lyon has a real competence and know-how in urban beautification, the creation of green urban space, the management of its two rivers and convivial urban life style.

The city is a political, economic, cultural and social center in Europe. It has had a twining partnership with Addis Ababa for the last 20 years.

Ambassador Henok Teferra praised Mr. Shoki Ali, member of our community and our Ambassador in the city, and Mr. François Theolyere, our Honorary Consul, for arranging the meeting.



H.E Ambassador Henok Teferra's interview with rfi international.

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Ethiopia's new ambassador to France sees bright future

By Daniel Singleton

Ethiopia has been undergoing major changes since the arrival of Abiy Ahmed as prime minister in April 2018, including the appointment of a raft of new ambassadors. Henok Teferra Shawl took his post as ambassador to France some three weeks ago. He told RFI about his objectives.

There have been many improvements in Ethiopia since Abiy's election, including the release of all political prisoners, the lifting of the ban on political parties, a push for regional economic integration, and the renewal of relations with Eritrea after more than 25 years of strife.

And the naming of new international envoys signals the PM's intention to improve relations on a much wider scale.

Henok Teferra's appointment to Paris follows a visit by Abiy to France in October last year and, more recently, a visit by French President Emmanuel Macron to Ethiopia in March.

The new ambassador's profile stands out in the often conventional world of diplomacy. Indeed, he combines a background in business with solid experience in the civil service, both involving serious responsibilities.

And there is an extra dimension – his long-established links with France.

He started his schooling at Lycée Guebre Mariam in Addis Ababa, the French international school (launched under the aegis of Emperor Haile Selassie, who was himself Francophone), at the age of four.

When his family moved to Germany, he went to the Französisches Gymnasium in Berlin, before going to the University of Nice-Sophia Antipolis where he gained a Bachelor's degree in Public and Private International Law.

This was followed by the University of Panthéon-Sorbonne (Paris 1) where he completed a Master's Degree in International Economic Law - that was in 1998.

Henok Teferra can put forward his experience at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Addis Ababa, where amongst other tasks he served as adviser to Seyoum Mesfin, when the latter was foreign minister.

However, the world of corporate business claimed all his skills and efforts, starting with Ethiopian Airlines, which he joined as Director of Corporate Communications and International Affairs in 2010.

He worked in several executive management positions and in October 2017 became Vice-President of Strategic Planning and Alliances. In between, he was seconded in May 2015 as CEO to airline company ASKY, Ethiopian Airlines' partner in West and Central Africa.

During president Macron's visit to Ethiopia last month he and Abiy Ahmed signed agreements touching on military cooperation for the training of Ethiopia's armed forces, but also focusing on the navy and air force president Abiy intends to re-launch or develop.

A number of French business executives accompanied president Macron – in that context, the appointment as ambassadors of high-ranking corporate executives such as Henok Teferra can be read as a sign that Ethiopia means business.

The move may even be linked to the change of tack that the Quai d'Orsay implemented some years ago when ambassadors were asked to be more business-minded. Henok Teferra does not disagree:

'World Press Freedom Day' took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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Conference on 'World Press Freedom Day' with the theme “Media for Democracy: Journalism and Elections in times of Disinformation,” kicks off at the AU Headquarters, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. (May 2, 2019). The day brought together more than 2,000 participants from over 95 countries.

The celebration was conducted by the UNESCO, the Government of Ethiopia, African Union and other partners.





Sunday 28 April 2019, the staff of the Embassy celebrated Easter with Ethiopians with legal issues in Paris.

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It is, therefore, a moment of sharing. In this spirit, the Embassy organized in Porte La Chapelle, together with two charities and eight Ethiopian restaurants based in Paris, the serving of Ethiopian dishes and the distribution of clothes to our compatriots in difficult situation due to their legal status.

The Embassy thanked the eight Ethiopian restaurants in Paris: Minilik, Godjo, Saveur d'Abyssinie, Ethiopia, Reine de Saba, Lucy, Ethio Saris and Habesha for their contribution in preparing the food.

And a gratitude and appreciation to two associations, Ethiopia France Association and Le-ma association for their hard work in organizing this gathering.

Thank you to all for their generosity and fraternity and for making it a truly blessed Easter.



Great News!

The Director-General of UNESCO who is in Addis Ababa for the World Press Freedom Day has just announced that the 2019 UNESCO Félix Houphouët-Boigny Prize has been awarded to H.E. Prime Minister Dr. Abiy.

The Prize honors individuals or organizations that have contributed in a significant way to the promotion, search and safeguard of peace. It is one of the most prestigious international awards with past recipients such as Nelson Mandela and Frederik W. De Klerk, Yitzhak Rabin, Shimon Peres and Yasser Arafat or Jimmy Carter.

It recognizes the tireless efforts and the significant contribution of H.E the Prime Minister for the prevalence of peace in our country and the region.

Congratulations to H.E. Prime Minister Dr. Abiy for this well-deserved Prize!