



## President Isaias Held Talks with Italian Delegation

On 02 July 2014, President Isaias Afwerki received and held talks with an Italian delegation led by Deputy Foreign Minister Lapo Pistelli.



During the meeting, the two sides exchanged views on the ways and means for the relations between Eritrea and Italy which is anchored on historical ties and mutual benefits could enter a new phase of development.

## Agreement Signed for Construction of College of Science

On 01 July 2014, in line with the agreement concluded in December 2011 between the Eritrean and PRC governments regarding cooperation in the economic and technical sectors, an agreement was signed on 31st June for the construction of College of Science in Mai-Nefhi at an expenditure of USD 33 million.

The Vice President of Academic Affairs at the Eritrean Institute of Tech-

They also asserted the readiness of the Governments of Eritrea and Italy to strengthen their bilateral cooperation, and agreed to chart partnership programs that benefit the two countries. Moreover, they agreed to coordinate their efforts in the promotion of peace and stability in the Horn of Africa Region.

President Isaias explained to the Italian Deputy Foreign Minister Eritrea's views on the developments in the region and the resolution of the problems.

Mr. Lapo Pistelli's visit to Eritrea took place when Italy has assumed the Presidency of the European Union for a six month period.

nology, Prof. Tesfamichael Haile, signed the agreement on the part of the Eritrean government. On the Chinese side, Mr. Hao Yizhong, Director of China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation, signed the accord.

Reports indicated that the construction of the 3-storey building would get underway next August and is expected to be finalized within 30 months.

Volume 1, Issue 14

15 July 2014

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## Eritrea and Its Academic Harvest

*By Tesfanews* <http://www.tesfanews.net/eritrea-and-its-season-of-academic-harvest/>

Summer is a season of multi-disciplinary harvest in the Eritrean Academic Calendar as thousands of Eritrean students graduate and celebrate their achievements from the various colleges, institutes and technical schools in the country.

all-round citizens along with a firm belief in and loyalty to the Eritrean nation.

### Number of Graduates From Various Eritrean Academic Institutions in 2014



Working on a priority basis in a bid to promote educational outreach through its ‘Education for all’ policy, the Eritrean government rendered considerable number of its budget to provide absolutely free education service to all its citizens up to the tertiary level with the ultimate goal of promoting social and economic development through education.

It is gratifying to witness the higher number of graduates being shown annually that attests the soundness of the policy and strategies in connection with education.

According to the September 2013 data from UNESCO Institute of Statistics, Eritrea’s adult literacy rate was the range of 60-90% and its youth rate ranges between 90-100% which is among the highest not only in the region but also in the world.

The Eritrea government believes Education in the country is a fundamental human right and a lifelong process by which all individuals are given opportunities to attain their potential and

no	Colleges, Institutions and technical school	Awards	No. of Graduates in 2014
1.	Eritrean Institute of Technology (EIT)	MA, BA and Diploma	1,081
2.	Asmara Community College of Education	Certificate/Diploma	588
3.	Adi-Keih College of Arts and Social Sciences	BA, Diploma and Certificate	262
4.	College of Health Science	BA and Diploma	477
5.	Halhale College of Business and Economics	BA and Diploma	425
6.	Hamelmallo College of Agriculture	MA, BA and Diploma	398
7.	College of Marine Science and Technology	BA and Diploma	122
8.	Halai Technical School	Certificate	25
9.	Hagaz Agriculture and Technical School	Certificate	153
10.	Denden Commercial School	Certificate	278
11.	Wina Technical school	Certificate	149
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>3,958</b>

## AFRICAN UNION ACTIVITIES

### Unanimous Call to Re-strategize for Agricultural Transformation

Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, 26 June 2014: African leaders attending the 23rd Assembly of AU Heads of State and Government in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea have been unanimous on the strategies needed to step up agricultural transformation to promote the continent's development.



Championing the call was African Union Commission Chairperson, H.E. Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma who spelt out strategic directions including increased public-private investment and partnership;

embarking on irrigation projects, increased access to land and agricultural inputs, and applied science and technology to modernize farming as critical orientations to transform agriculture.

Remaining focused on the AU 2014 annual theme of Agriculture and Food Security, Dr. Dlamini Zuma reiterated the call for agriculture to be made attractive to the continent's youth, especially through specialized training in agriculture and agro-processing in what she described as the "skills revolution".

To enable agricultural transformation to flourish, the environment must be conducive: "We need conditions of peace and stability, and for our people not to be under threat from armed gangs, terrorists and human and arms traffickers and from poachers," the Chairperson said. She called on stakeholders to work toward peace and stability to "create conditions for our people to return home without fear, to plow their fields and to rebuild their lives."

### African Union Heads of State and Government Adopt the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa

STISA-2024 was developed as a result of the review of the Africa Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action (CPA), following an inclusive participatory process involving policy-makers, prominent scientists, and researchers at home and in Diaspora; institutions and organizations including the AU Commission and the NEPAD Agency. The 8-member high-level panel that presided over the development of STISA-2024 was co-chaired by Professors Calestous Juma and Ismail Serageldin.

The STISA-2024 is a decadal continental strategic framework for accelerating Africa's transition to an innovation-led, knowledge-based economy within the overall framework of the AU Agenda 2063. In their decision, the Heads of State and Government called upon the Member States, Regional Economic

Communities and Development Partners to align, connect and use the STISA-2024 as a reference framework in designing and coordinating their STI development agendas and initiatives, to collectively contribute to Africa's socio-economic development. This calls for a political will and financial commitment from Member States that goes beyond the Khartoum declaration of 1% GDP spending on research and development.

The AU Commission, the NEPAD Agency and their partners will continue to advocate and create awareness, mobilize necessary institutional, human and financial resources and also track, monitor and evaluate the implementation progress of STISA -2024.