



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



Silver Jubilee Independence Celebrations Commenced with the Lighting of the Independence Torch

Eritrea's Silver Jubilee Independence Celebrations commenced on 15 January through a ceremony of lighting of the Independence Torch in the historic town of Nakfa.



The Independence Torch will cover more than three thousand kilometers in all the Regions of the country and reach Asmara, Eritrea's capital on Independence Day, 24 May 2016.

Extensive preparations are already underway inside the country and abroad for the celebration of the Silver Jubilee of Independence Day under the theme "Quarter of Century of Resilience and Development".

The Silver Jubilee Independence Day celebrations will include cultural shows, symposiums, sports competitions, military parades, carnivals as well as children's programs. Thousands of Eritreans residing abroad and friends of Eritrea are expected to participate at the celebrations.

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Eritrea

The Government of Eritrea reaffirms its strategic neighborly ties with Saudi Arabia and condemns the violation perpetrated against the Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Tehran.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State
of Eritrea
Asmara, 5 January 2016



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 **Eritrean Mission to
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National Union of Eritrean Women Delegation Paid a Working Visit to China

A senior delegation of the National Union of Eritrean Women (NUEW) led by the President, Ms. Teka Tesfamichael, paid a working visit to the People's Republic of China (PRC) from 22 to 27 December 2015.

The delegation met and held talks with Ms. Meng Shio Si, Vice Chairwoman of the All China Women's Federation (ACWF). At the meeting, Ms. Teka Tesfamichael elucidated the overall role of Eritrean women in the nation building process. Ms. Meng Shio Si for her part affirmed the readiness of the ACWF to reinvigorate the existing ties of cooperation between the two unions.



The NUEW Delegation also visited various cities in the PRC for similar talks with its counterparts.

15th Eritrean Festival in Australia and New Zealand

The 15th Eritrean Festival in Australia and New Zealand was successfully held in Melbourne from 7-10 January 2016. The Festival was attended by Eritreans and friends of Eritrea from Australia and New Zealand and included programs depicting Eritrea's rich cultural diversity. Exhibitions, sports competitions, seminars and children programs were part of the three day Festival. Messages of solidarity were delivered at the Festival by Australian government officials and friends of Eritrea.



FOCAC Summit Brings New Opportunities to the Further Deepening of China-Eritrea Cooperation



Excerpts from an Article by Ambassador Qiu Xuejun, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the State of Eritrea, published on Eritrea Profile on 13 January 2016.

China and Eritrea have maintained sound and healthy bilateral relations in all areas since establishing diplomatic relations.

And now I am confident to say that new opportunities have come for the further deepening of China-Eritrea relations and cooperation. On 4-5 December of 2015, the Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation themed "Africa-China Progressing Together: Win-Win Cooperation for Common Development" (the FOCAC Summit) was held in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The summit was a complete success and a truly historic grand event of milestone significance. During the Summit, China and Africa have come up with new plans, new blueprint and new momentum to jointly develop together.

Based on the already sound and healthy China and Eritrean bilateral relations, we are now faced with greater opportunities to further deepen our relations in the following areas:

First, China and Eritrea share identical or similar views on international affairs such as the upholding of international justice, the principles of international law, the human rights etc., and support each other in the international arena.

We should further consolidate our political cooperation based on these shared values.

Second, we should further deepen and diversify our economic win-win cooperation in the areas of industry, mining, agriculture, infrastructure such as roads, ports, aviation, solar power and telecommunication, and development of human resources, bringing more tangible and real benefits to our two peoples.

Third, we should encourage more exchanges between our two peoples at different levels in the areas of education, culture, sports, health, media, people's organizations of workers, women, youth and students, thus further enhancing our mutual understanding, mutual learning and bringing the hearts of our two peoples closer, laying a solid social foundation for the long lasting friendship between our two countries.

Both the Chinese and Eritrean people are great peoples. We are all on our long march of nation building.

China is striving for the achievement of the two Centenary Goals by the mid of the Century and Eritrea is moving steadfast on its road of development through resilience.

We are strong and good partners in this grand cause. Let's join hands together and seize the opportunities to further deepen China-Eritrea cooperation in all areas to the benefit of our two countries and peoples to a larger extent.