



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



Eritrean Foreign Minister held talks with his Egyptian Counterpart

The Eritrean Foreign Minister, Mr. Osman Saleh met and held talks with Mr. Sameh Shoukry, Foreign Minister of Egypt on the 6th of May in Cairo.

The two sides expressed satisfaction on the progress of cooperation in the sectors of fisheries, agriculture, health, energy as well as trade and investment.

The two foreign Ministers also took the opportunity to exchange views on regional and international issues of mutual interest to both countries.



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Eritrean Delegation attended the Belt and Road Initiative Forum

Eritrea participated in the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation that took place in Beijing, China on 14 and 15 May 2017.



Representing Eritrea, Mr. Hagos Gebrehiwet, Head of PFDJ Economic Affairs, took part in the Forum aimed at ensuring economic integration of Asia, Africa, Europe and other continents.

29 Heads of State, 1500 representatives from 130 countries as well as representatives of 70 international organizations attended the Forum which mainly focused on interlinking countries around the world through viable infrastructure.

Reiterating that China would extend financial support and deploy construction experts, President Xi Jinping of the People's Republic of China, called on other states to make due contribution towards the success of the project.

In view of the fact that Eritrea is located in one of the world's strategic maritime route in the Red Sea makes it an important partner.

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Inside this issue:

**Practical Cooperation
Between China
and Eritrea
Making Steady
Progress** 2

**Asmara's Bid for
Inscription on the
UNESCO World
Heritage List** 3

**24 May 2017 -
26th Anniversary
of Eritrea's
Independence** 5

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 **Eritrean Mission to
AU & ECA**

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Practical Cooperation Between China and Eritrea Making Steady Progress - H.E. Yang Zigang, Chinese Ambassador to Eritrea

*The following is an excerpt from an article by H.E. Yang Zigang, Chinese Ambassador to the State of Eritrea, published on the 17 May 2017 edition of Eritrea Profile, under the title **Joining “The Belt and Road” Initiative: Promoting Friendship and Cooperation.***

China and Eritrea share a long history of friendship. Through the ancient Maritime Silk Road, our ancestors established commercial and cultural ties as early as in the first century AD. An ancient wine vase with four Chinese characters of “万和禅山” was excavated in Hariena Islands close to ancient port of Adulis (800 BC to 800 AD). It is now exhibited in Northern Red Sea Region Museum as an exact example of our longstanding friendship.

The political foundation of China-Eritrean friendship is solid. On May 24, 1993, when Eritrea formally achieved its independence, our two countries immediately established diplomatic relations. Since then, the friendship between China and Eritrea has developed smoothly. We understand and support each other in international affairs and issues of our core interests and major concerns. We have become good friends, partners and brothers sharing similar value while seeking co-development.

The achievements of China-Eritrean friendship and cooperation are significant. Since the establishment of diplomatic relations, the Chinese government has provided assistance in its power to Eritrea in the fields of infrastructure construction, education, health care and so on, which has brought tangible benefits to Eritrean people. The Practical Cooperation between China and Eritrea have also made steady progress.

Since Eritrea’s independence, Chinese companies have entered Eritrea to seek cooperation and co-development. At present, there are nearly 20 Chinese companies operating in Eritrea, including SFECO, SRBG, Huawei, etc. They work in mining, electricity, construction, communications and other fields, and are highly appreciated and warmly received by the Eritrean government and the local

communities. In recent years, bilateral economic and trade cooperation has been expanding, demonstrating a diversified development trend. Now, China is proud to be the largest trade partner, investment source and contractor of Eritrea.

The prospect of China-Eritrean friendship and cooperation is bright. The Eritrean government is enhancing national governance, and actively improving the infrastructure as well as people’s livelihood. Eritrea enjoys great development potential in various fields: it is located in an important position, connecting Red Sea and Indian Oceans; it has 1200 kilometers’ coastline and more than 300 islands, and is rich in maritime resources and tourism assets; it has an advantage to exploit solar energy since most of the country are highlands in low geographical latitude with strong sunshine. Currently, mineral exploitation, infrastructure construction, fisheries and regional aviation cooperation have become important areas for bilateral cooperation between our two sides.

The Eritrean government responds positively to “the Belt and Road” Initiative. And as a good friend of China, Eritrea is expected to be an important participant and partner, taking ride of “the Belt and Road” Initiative to deepen the cooperation between our two countries in different aspects, and make new opportunities for Eritrea’s economic and social development.

With the support of the “Ten Cooperation Plans” raised in FOCAC Summit and “the Belt and Road” platform, the Embassy of the People’s Republic of China in Eritrea will maintain close exchanges with the Eritrean government, creating favorable conditions for boosting China- Eritrean cooperation, realizing advantage complementation, and achieving co-development. We will continue to consolidate and advance friendship between our two countries for the benefit of our two peoples.

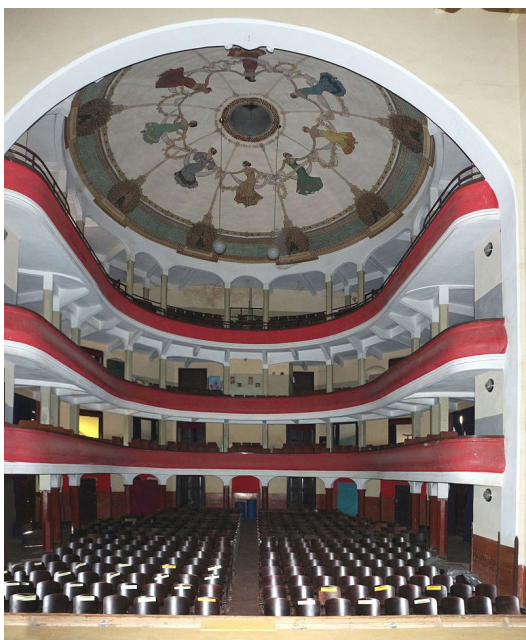
Yang Zigang, Chinese Ambassador to the State of Eritrea

The full article can be accessed at: http://50.7.16.234/hadas-eritrea/eritrea_profile_17052017.pdf

Asmara's Bid for Inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List

In 2005 the Government of Eritrea made an initial submission of the 'The Historic Perimeter of Asmara and its Modernist Architecture' for inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Currently, the city is featured on the tentative list. The complete Nomination Dossier and the supporting documents on the candidature were submitted in February 2016.

The decision on inscription is expected to be made in the first half of July 2017, during the Forty-First session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee to be convened in Krakow, Poland.



◆ *What makes Asmara's Architectural Heritage Exceptional?*

Asmara represents perhaps the most concentrated and intact assemblage of *Modernist* architecture anywhere in the world. The urban design within the Historic Perimeter has remained untouched since its original implementation and subsequent evolution throughout the 1930s, and the architectural elements exemplify a superlative example of *Modernist* architecture in a complete urban setting. These two contiguous and exceptional tangible components have nurtured a unique and distinct intangible social environment founded on Western Modernist design ideals realised in a highland African setting.

◆ *Ancient Settlement and Colonial Past*

Asmara is the site of an ancient highland village called 'Arbate Asmara'. In 1885, the Italians invaded Eritrea and by 1900 Asmara had become the capital city. The site was chosen for its salubrious highland climate, reliable water supply and ideal geographic location in the centre of Eritrea.



In the early twentieth century, Asmara represented little more than a small highland village which grew incrementally to become a well-established town by the 1920s. By the 1930s Asmara became a vast building site, as over 70,000 Italians arrived to establish new lives for themselves.



Contd. on page 4

Asmara’s Bid for Inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List (Contd. from page 3)

◆ *The Making of Africa’s Modernist City*

The rapid transformation of Asmara from a relatively minor town into one of Africa's modern and sophisticated cities at that time overlapped with equally momentous events in the world of design and architecture, which involved the global proliferation of *Modernism* and its various forms, including *Futurism*, *Rationalism*, *Novecento*, and *Art Deco*. The spirit of this new age of travel and adventure was embodied in these new architectural forms. Asmara was an ideal blank canvas on which architects could practice and realise these modern ideals.



fascism in the Second World War.

◆ *Preservation of the Architectural Heritage*

From the 1940s until Eritrea’s Independence in 1991, no major construction had taken place in Asmara, because Eritrea had been subject to continuous unrest due to foreign occupation. Ironically, this turbulence has served to protect Asmara's unique urban heritage.

From 1935-1941, thousands of buildings were constructed in the city, most of which reflect various *Modernist* styles and some of which represent inimitable architectural forms, such as petrol stations mimicking airplanes and boats, commercial buildings designed as trains, cavernous cinemas with fine period plasterwork and Art Deco interiors, fine ultra-modern hotels and offices, and government buildings with highly politicised monumental designs.

In 1941, Italian rule in Eritrea ended when Allied Forces liberated Eritrea in the first victory against

The Government of Eritrea established the Cultural Assets Rehabilitation Project (CARP) in 1999 to preserve and promote the unique architectural heritage of Asmara. The project is tasked with restoring several key buildings in the city.

Other work includes the establishment of a Historic Perimeter and a series of Planning and Conservation Guidelines to assist residents and the Municipality of Asmara in ensuring that the architecture and the unique urban environment are conserved in concurrence with the city's necessary development.

24 May 2017 - 26th Anniversary of Eritrea's Independence



LAYING PILLARS FOR VIBRANT GROWTH

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NATIONAL HOLIDAYS COORDINATING COMMITTEE
Des. by Edward A.