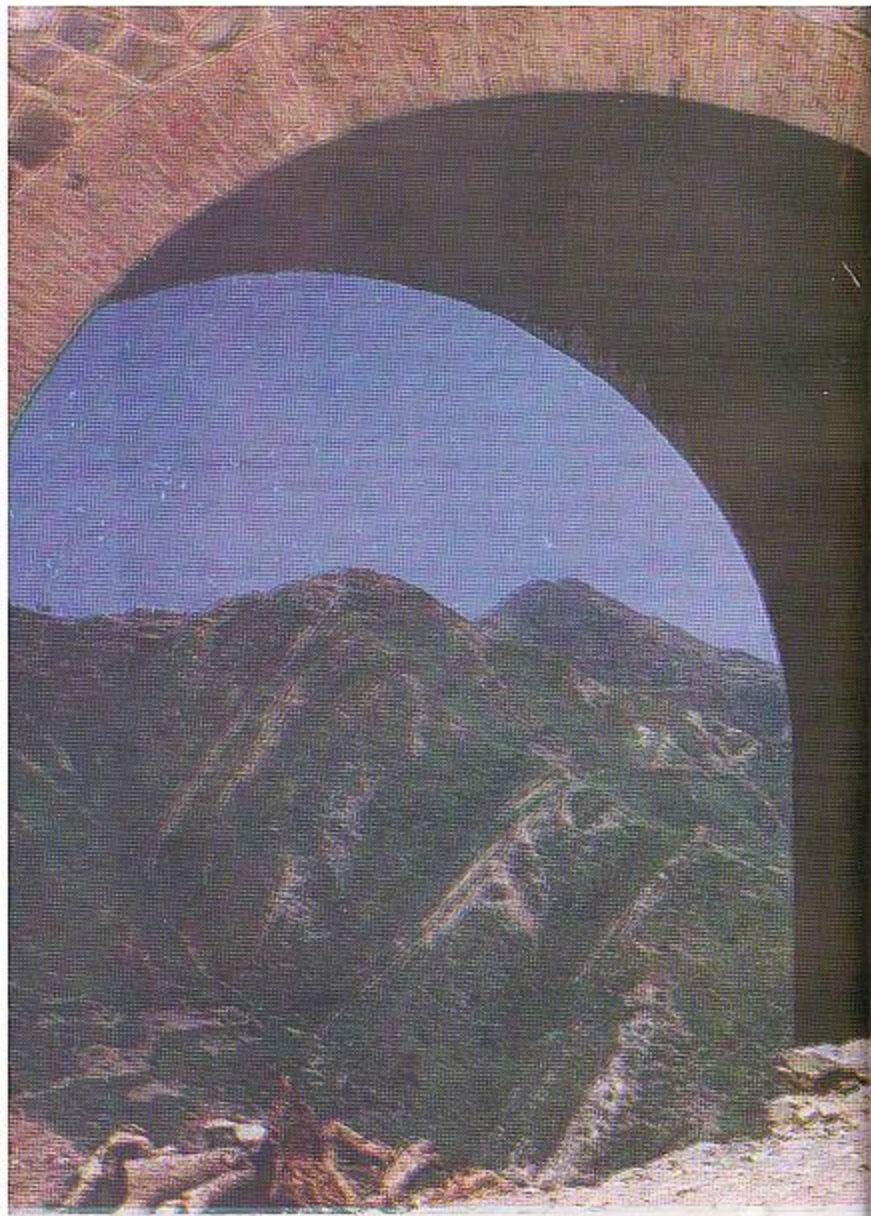


Eritrea

Presentation
by
Ambassador Estifanos Afeworki
August 22, 2006





I. THE COUNTRY

Land

Eritrea, located in the Horn of Africa, is bounded on the north-east and east by the Red Sea, on the south-east by Djibouti, on the south by Ethiopia and on the west and north-west by Sudan.

Its Red Sea coastline extends for about 670 miles (1,000 kilometers) from Ras Kasar at its northern border with Sudan, to Dar Alwa, a point south of the port of Assab on the southern Red Sea entrance of Bab al Mandab. The total area of Eritrea is about 124,000 square kilometers and includes the Dahlak Archipelago, a group of around 365 islands lying off the coast of the port town of Massawa with a total area of 1,452 square kilometers. Dahlak Khebir is the largest island of the Archipelago.

Eritrea is divided into 6 regions: Central Region, Southern Region, Anseba Gash Berka, Northern Red Sea, and Southern Red Sea Regions. It can be roughly classified into three topographic regions: the lowlands, the midlands (or the escarpment) and the highlands. While a temperate climate prevails over the central highland plateau, the western lowlands are hot and humid, and the eastern lowlands are hot and arid.



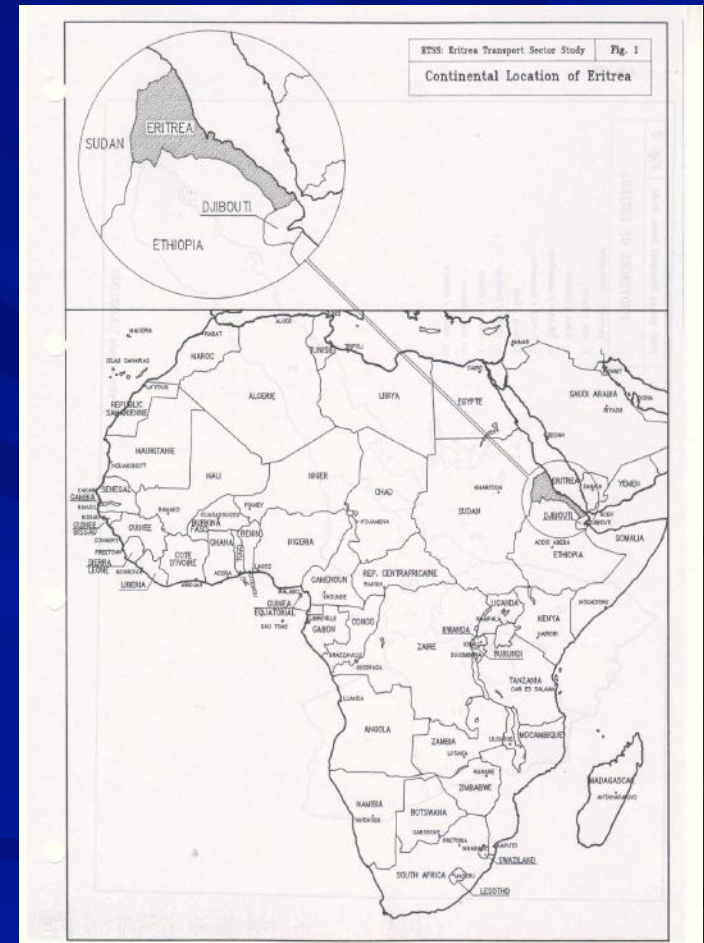
Brief Profile of Eritrea

- **Languages:** Afar, Arabic, Bilen, Hedareb, Kunama, Nara, Saho, Tigre, and Tigrigna languages are spoken;
- **Religions:** Islam, Orthodox Christianity, Catholicism, Protestantism, Judaism and Anna religions are practiced;
- **Capital:** Asmara
- **Climate :** Eritrea's topography and climate includes variations in the entire continent of Africa including the hottest, lowest sites in the planet (Kober Sink -75m) as well as the highest rain in East Africa (Filfel)
- **Area:** 124,300 sq. kms
- **Population:** about 4.2 million
- **Government:** Constitutional republic
- **Currency:** Nakfa
- **Agriculture:** Cereals, edible oils, lentils, vegetables, cut flowers, cotton, coffee, sisal, livestock, fish
- **Industries:** Food processing, beverages, leather products, clothing, textiles, glass making, ceramics
- **International Ports:** Massawa and Assab
- **International Airports:** Asmara, Massawa and Assab
- **Duty Free Zone:** Massawa
- **News & Events:** Eritrea participated in Aichi Expo 2005-Japan and received Global 100 Echo-Tech Award

Significance of Eritrea to Africa and the world

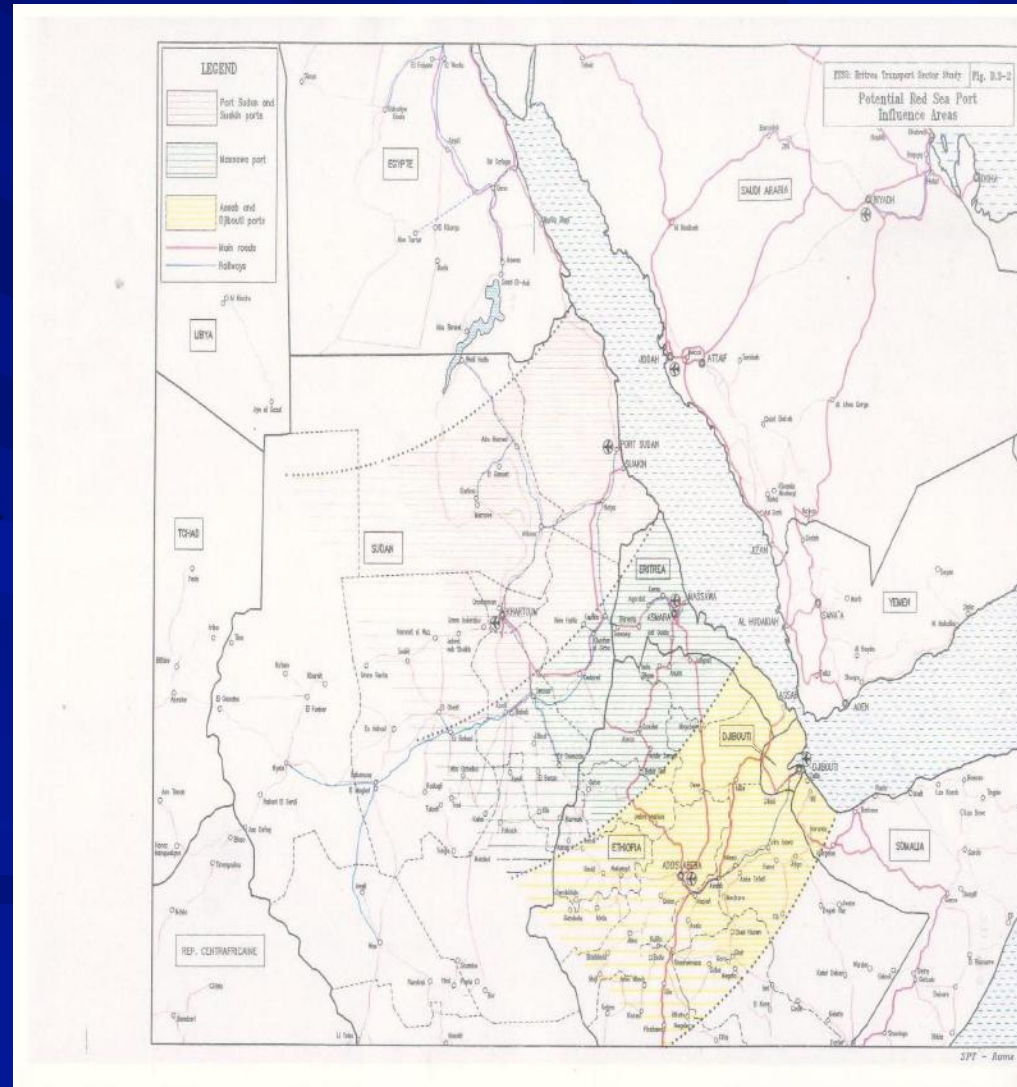
■ TRADE CORRIDOR :

between Africa and the commercial centers of the Red Sea, the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean (starting from the 3rd millennium BC Phoronic and Hellenistic period for incense, ivory, animal skins, slaves, obsidian, gold and other precious materials)



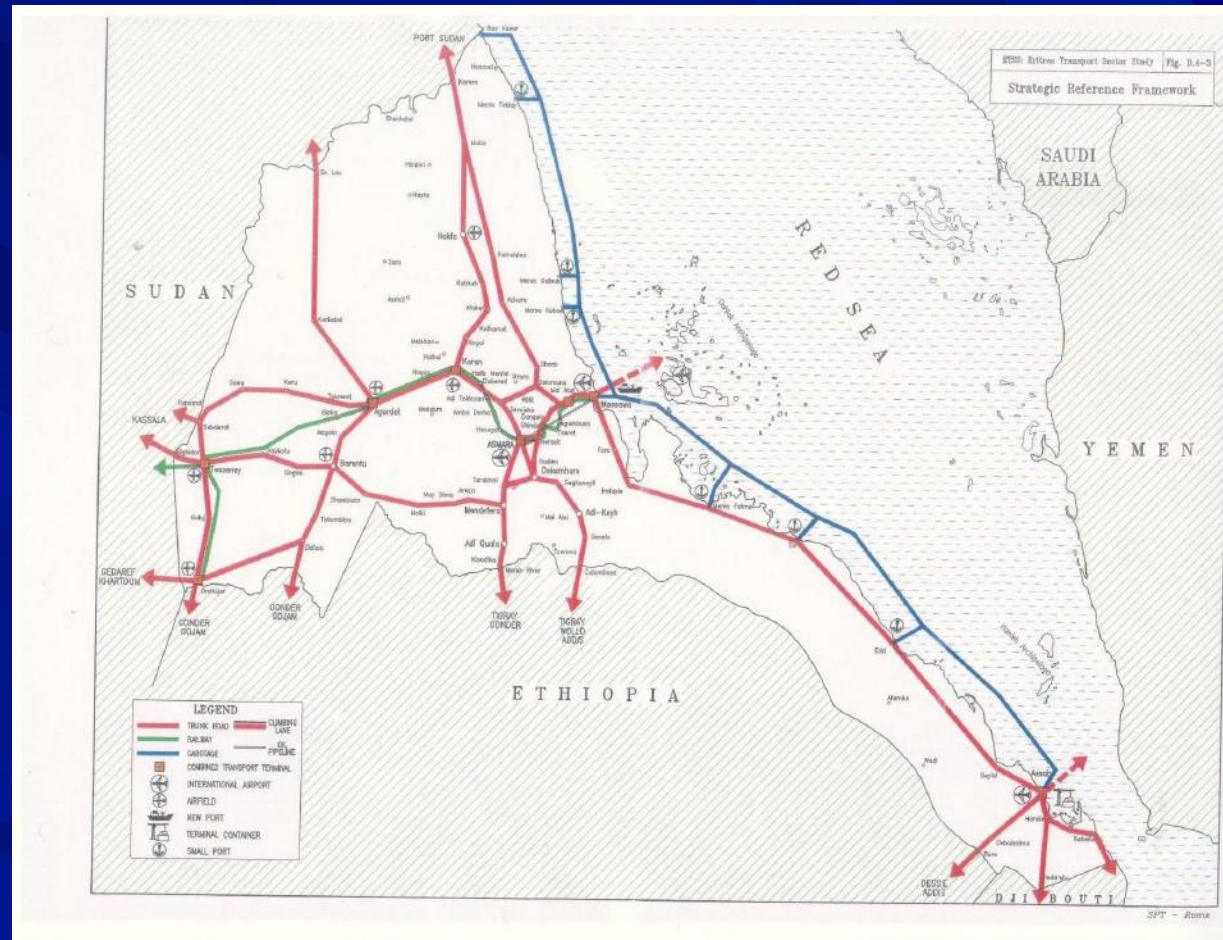
Significance of Eritrea to Africa:

- **COASTLINE (1200km)**
- Most heavily trafficked maritime route (Europe-Middle/Far East).
- Ideal for transiting maritime traffic and settling free zones for export oriented goods
- Easy access to land, sea and air link to and from the hinterlands of Africa
- Abundant natural resources
- Endowed with 360 Virgin Islands for eco-tourism
- Populated by open, honest and hardworking people who are proud of their history and heritage



Significance of Eritrea to the Horn:

- Strategic geographic location
- Fertile agricultural land
- More than adequate potential of water resources
- Good basis of human resources
- Massive displacement of population
- Nationalism /self-reliance
- Women's unique role
- New economic policy



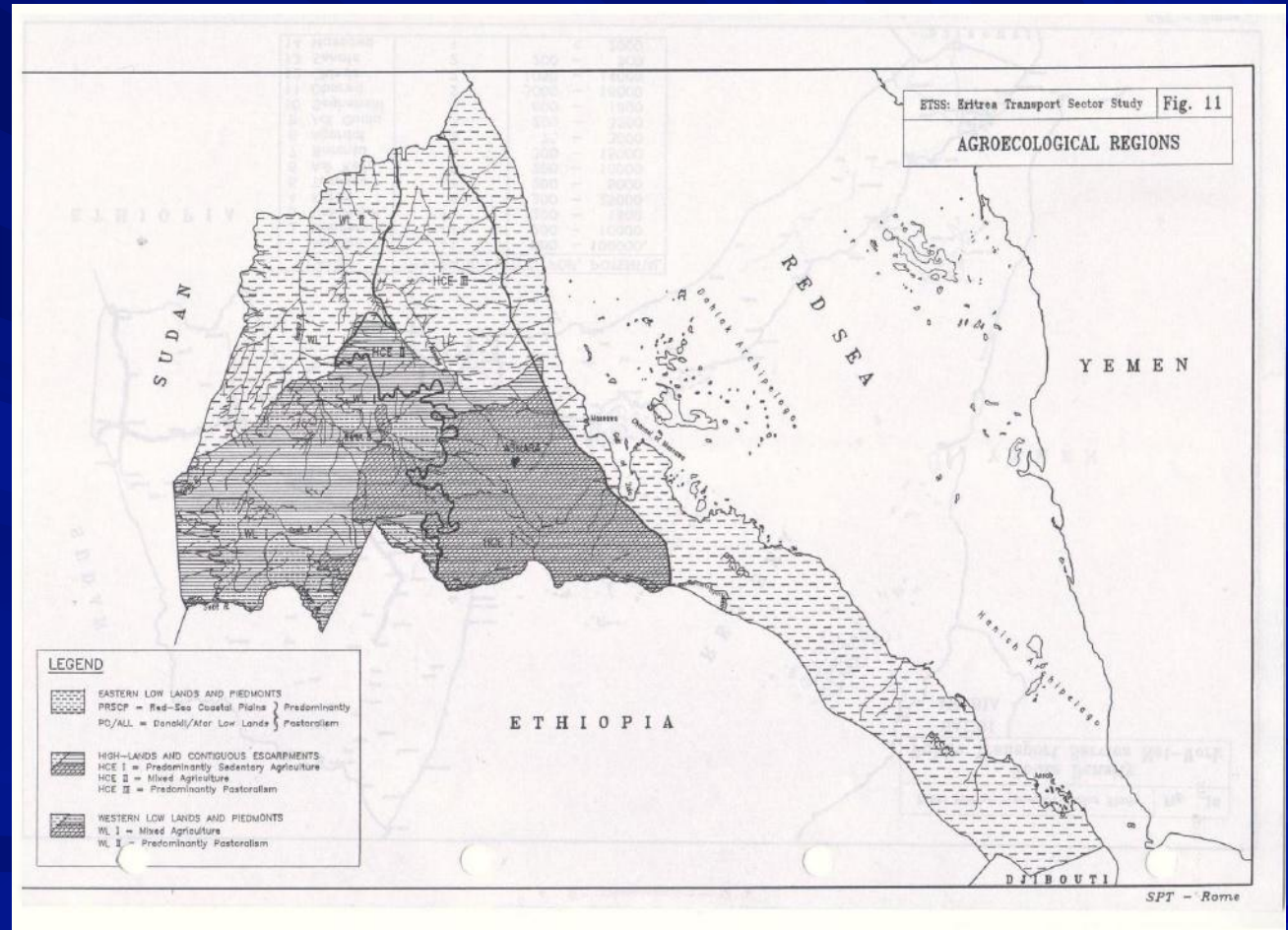
Eritrea's economic potential:

■ AGRICULTURE

Potential
(crop , fruit
cultivation
and animal
husbandry
practiced
for millennium)

■ FISHING

Potential
70,000 tons/year
fish harvest
(FAO estimates)

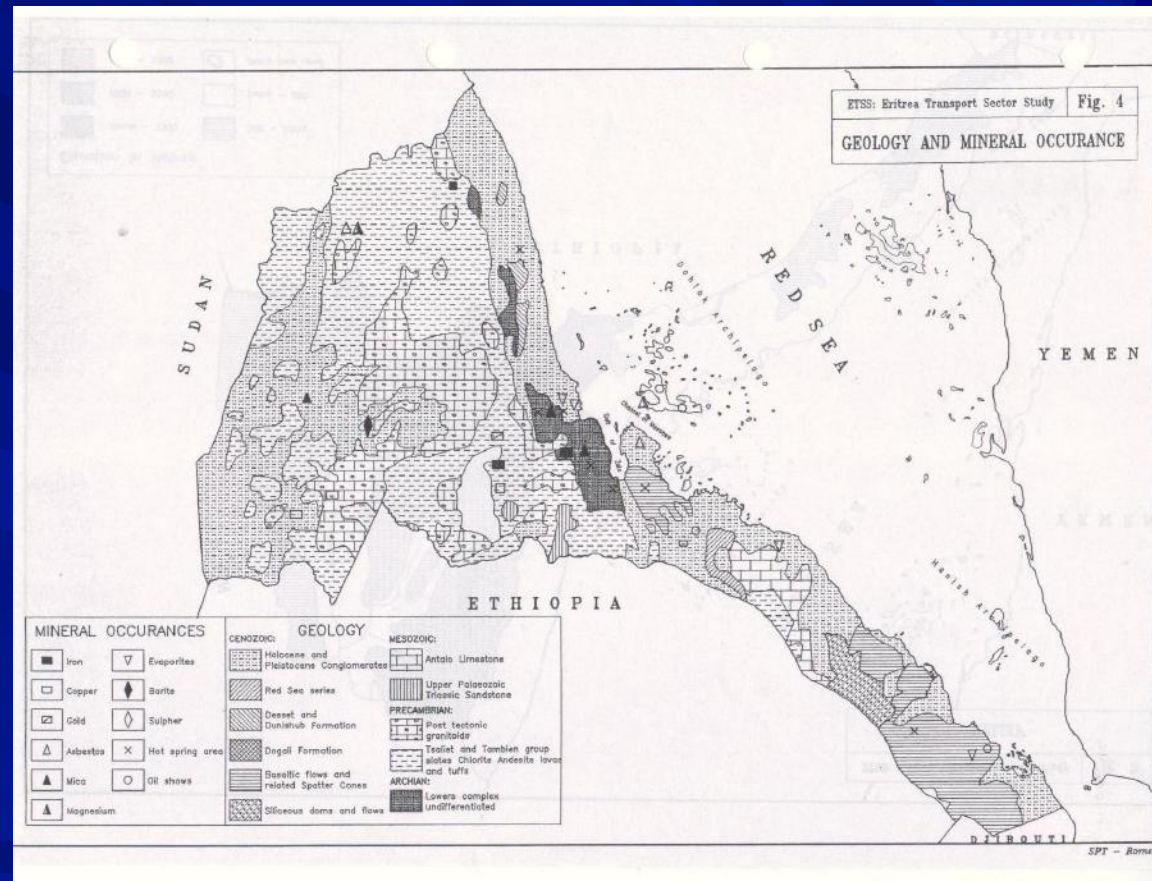


Eritrea's natural resources:

Minerals

salt, gold, silver, sulphur, potash, zinc, copper, lead, iron ore, granite, marble, limestone, etc

Deposits of oil and natural gas commercially recoverable along the Red Sea coast is believed to be substantial; and a potential for developing thermal and other alternate sources of energy are indicated in studies and surveys made

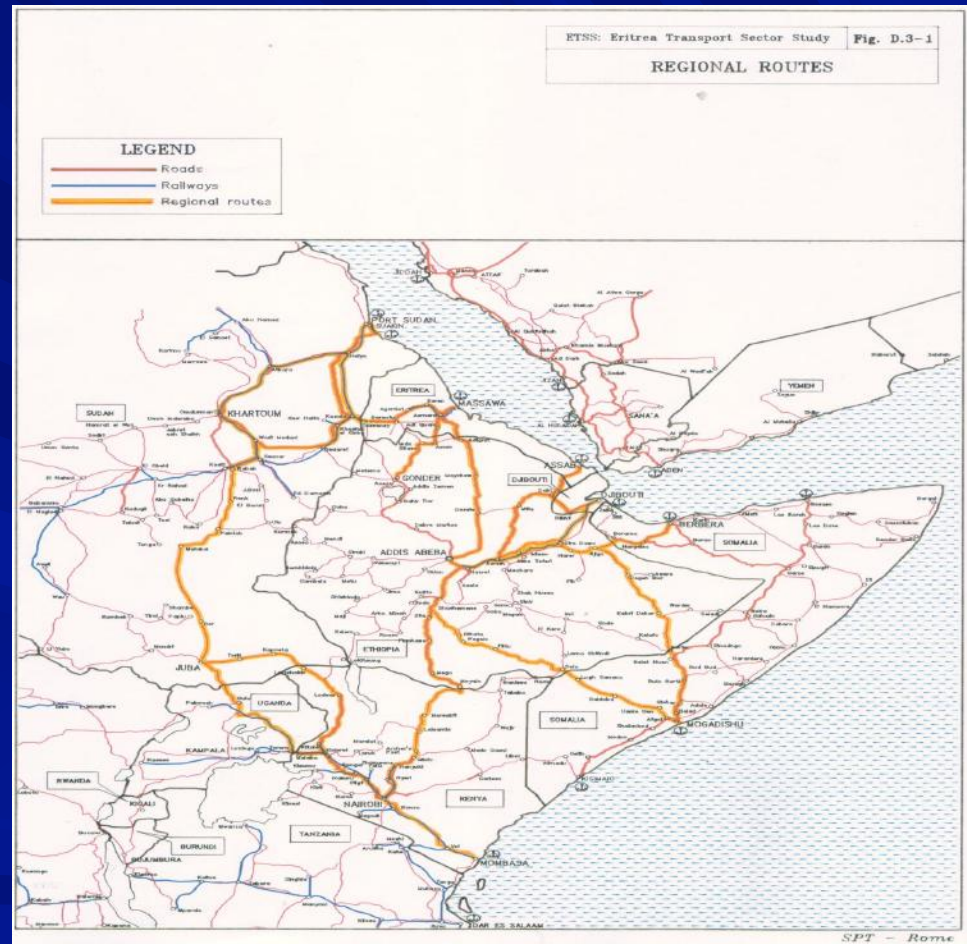


Peace and stability in the region:

- Peace treaty between Ethiopia and Eritrea made on border conflict (December 2000)
- Sudan is actively engaged in peace and political reform
- Ethiopia is actively engaged in political reform
- Kenya is actively engaged in political reform
- Somalia is actively engaged in peace process
- “Customs Union” of East Africa Community (EAC) (Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda) founded (January 2005)
- Member states of Inter Governmental Authority for Development (IGAD)

NB

The indicated (figure) regional routes are important to the activities of foreign and regional trade, investment and tourism operators



Location of Eritrea



What is the ancient history of Eritrea?

- The Adulite Era (9th century BC – 5th century AD) centered in the city – state of Adulis functioned as a major regional center for commerce and trade. For nearly 1,400 years, the Red Sea coastal city-state of Adulis functioned as a major regional center for commerce and trade.
- The Axumite Empire (1st – 9th Century AD) centered in the Eritrean highlands and what is now known as Tigray in Ethiopia flourished for nearly thousand years. The domain of this Empire included the present day Yemen. At times this kingdom allied with the Byzantine Empire. Christianity penetrated to North east Africa in the 4th Century. Mohamed also sent fifteen of his prophets in 615 to Eritrea before he succeeded in Mecca.
- Much of Axum Empire was later conquered by the Bejas who were expanding southward from Sudan.

Who are the inhabitants of Eritrea?

- **The earliest hominid remains found in Eritrea date back from two million years**
- **Stone tools and settlements discovered in Eritrea indicates the earliest human occupation of a coastal marine environment**
- **The legendary Land of Punt referred to by the Egyptian Pharaohs is presumed to be in Eritrea**
- **The earliest inhabitants of Eritrea were probably related to the Central African Pygmies which later co-mingled with the Nilotic, Cushitic and Semitic peoples who migrated here from as far away as the Nubian lowlands and the Arabian peninsula**

What is the old history of Eritrea?

- **The five distinct Kingdoms but interrelated Beja kingdoms (8th – 13th Century AD) stretched from Southern Egypt to north-central Eritrea. An off-shot, known as the Bellou Kingdom, flourished from the 13th to the 16th century in parts of Western Eritrea and Eastern Sudan.**
- **The Bahre Negash Kingdom (14th – 18th centuries) arose in highland Eritrea in the 14th Century . Its ruler, confirmed by a council of elders, presided over a loose federation. This authority declined with advent of the Italians in the 1880**
- **The Ottoman Turks (15th -19th centuries) arrived in the Eritrean coasts at the start of the 16th century and for the next 300 years controlled the shorelines.**
- **The Egyptian Empire (1846-1941) took control of the Ottoman Habesh Empire until they were defeated by the Mahadist uprising in 1888 in Sudan.**

What is the modern history of Eritrea?

- Italian Colonization (1881 – 1941)
- Following the defeat of Italy in World War II, Eritrea was put under the Protectorate of Britain (1941 – 52).
- The disposition of Eritrea was given to the new formed UN which federated Eritrea with Ethiopia (1952- 61)
- This federation was unilaterally dissolved by Ethiopia in 1961
- Thirty years war was fought in Eritrea for independence (1961 – 1991)
- Eritrea got its independence in 1993

What is the significance of the history of Eritrea to Japan?

- Eritrea has been a center and tributary of many civilizations in Africa
- Events of history in this area before and after the opening of the Suez Canal and the Cold War do merit researches and studies from many angles and perspectives (social, political and economic)
- The present diversity of culture, religion, ethnic groups, languages tolerance and strong nationalism that vividly exists in Eritrea is part and parcel of this long history
- This treasury awaits a discovery by governments, development partners, academicians, students and researchers
- Japan should participate in this discovery

Who are the inhabitants of Eritrea ?



What is the local dish in Eritrea?



Arigato



Dialogue

