



## President Isaias Hold Talks With Finnish Delegation

President Isaias Afwerki met with a delegation headed by the Minister of International Cooperation of Finland, Mr. Pekka Haavisto.

In the meeting held on 10 January 2014 in Asmara, the two sides exchanged views on ways and means of enhancing relations of partnership between Eritrea and Finland, particularly in the

domains of Education and Health. To this end, they agreed to speed up the process.

In their discussion on regional issues especially



on the current situation in South Sudan, President Isaias stressed the need for all stakeholders to be engaged and give coordinated support towards enabling the country to overcome the prevailing unnecessary and sad situation.

During its two-day visit, the Finnish delegation also conducted discussions with a number of Eritrean government officials.

## Eritrea One of the 10 Countries Set to Have the Fastest-Growing Economies in 2014

The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) has listed Eritrea among the 10 countries in the world projected to have the fastest growth in 2014. EIU estimates that in 2014 Eritrea's economy will grow by 8%.

The 10 countries ranked from first to last by percentage of GDP growth. →

1	Mongolia	15.3%
2	Sierra Leone	11.2%
3	Turkmenistan	9.2%
4,5	Bhutan and Libya	8.8%
6,7,8	Iraq, Laos, and Timor-Leste	8.5 %
9	<b>Eritrea</b>	<b>8.0%</b>
10	Zambia	7.9%

## Credit Suisse: Eritrea's Wealth Per Capita Higher by 13%

Credit Suisse, a Switzerland-based multinational financial service and research institute, in its latest Global Wealth Report, finds that from mid-2012 to mid-2013, Eritrea's wealth per capita and wealth per adult increased from US\$915 to US\$1037 and US\$1883 to US\$2,125, respectively.

Eritrea's Progress from 2000 to mid-2013

Year	Wealth Per Capita	Wealth Per Adult	Financial Wealth
2000	\$168	\$389	\$183
2004	\$184	\$398	\$157
2008	\$434	\$910	\$335
2013	\$1,037	\$2,125	\$783

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### Contact Addresses:

Tel: +251-116620052  
 Fax: +251-116620011  
 Email: [eritreanaumission@gmail.com](mailto:eritreanaumission@gmail.com)  
 P.o.Box: 5527  
 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

## A High Level UN Delegation Visits Eritrea

On the second half of December, a high level U.N. delegation conducted a three-day visit to Eritrea to assess the country's development achievements. During the visit, the delegation received briefings from the relevant Government officials on Eritrea's national development priorities for the next three years.



At the conclusion of the visit, Mr. Abdoulaye Mar Dieye said: **“As a delegation, we have given our commitment to the Government that the UN in Eritrea will ensure that it continues to produce results and create impact,”**

Headed by the Chair of the Regional United Nations Development Group (UNDG) for Eastern and Southern Africa, Abdoulaye Mar Dieye, the delegation comprised of Regional Directors from UNDP, UNICEF, IOM, UNFPA, ILO and WFP.

The group met with the President of Eritrea, Isaias Afwerki and several Government officials and discussed the United Nations' engagement in the country and the possibility of further strengthening cooperation in line with Eritrea's sustainable development framework.

The Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator of the UN in Eritrea, Ms. Christine Umutoni, on her part said, **“the visit of this delegation builds on the current momentum to strengthen the relationship between Eritrea and International Development partners.”**

### Eritrea Making Impressive Progress in Meeting Six of the MDGs

Out of the eight MDGs, Eritrea has made impressive progress by achieving three of the health-related Goals, i.e. reducing child mortality, improving maternal health and the fight against malaria, and HIV and AIDS; and is on-track on three others.

Eritrea	Millennium Development Goals	Progress
MDG 1	Eradicate Extreme Hunger and Poverty	Off Track <span style="color: red;">✘</span>
MDG 2	Achieve Universal Primary Education	On Track <span style="color: green;">✔</span>
MDG 3	Promote Gender Equality & Empower Women	On Track <span style="color: green;">✔</span>
MDG 4	Reduce Child Mortality	Achieved <span style="color: blue;">✔</span>
MDG 5	Improve Maternal Health	Achieved <span style="color: blue;">✔</span>
MDG 6	Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria & other Disease	Achieved <span style="color: blue;">✔</span>
MDG 7	Ensure Environmental Sustainability	On Track <span style="color: green;">✔</span>
MDG 8	Develop a Global Partnership for Development	Off Track <span style="color: red;">✘</span>

Sources: MoH, UNDP

### Eritrea at a Glance

Population	3.5 million
Ethnic Groups (9)	Afar, Bilen, Hidarib, Kunama, Nara, Rashaida, Saho, Tigre and Tigrinya
Religion	Equally divided between Christians and Muslims
Area	About 124,320 sq. km.
Red Sea Coastline Major Sea Ports	1,212 km. Assab and Massawa
Capital city	Asmara
Other Major Cities and Towns	Massawa, Assab, Keren, Dekemhare, Mendefera, Barentu, Tessnei
National Day	24 May
Currency	Nakfa
Neighbouring Countries	Sudan, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Yemen, Saudi Arabia

### Orotta School of Medicine Graduates Fourth Round of Doctors

The Eritrean Government has made huge investment in building the infrastructure and human resources necessary for all the citizens to get accessible, affordable, efficient, effective and quality health services.

In this vein, Eritrea has established several training institutions for medical doctors, nurses, midwives, pharmacists, laboratory technicians, associate nurses, anaesthetists, public health practitioners and other paramedic specialists.

One of these institutions is the Orotta School of Medicine which was established in 2004 in Asmara.



Since then, the School has expanded its programs by establishing the School of Dental Medicine in 2007, and a Post Graduate Medical Education program in 2008. On 28 December 2013, the School graduated 56 Medical Doctors who pursued their studies for eight years.

Students at the Orotta School of Medicine and the other medical training institutions do not pay tuition, boarding or any other fees; it is fully covered by the Government.

### Eritrean Natnael Berhane Wins the 2013 African Sportsman Award

Natnael Berhane is voted African Sportsman of the Year 2013 in a poll conducted by the *African Top Sports* website. According to the results made public on 5 January 2014, Natnael secured the award by getting a sweeping 4371 (44%) of the votes. While Ivorian footballers Yaya Touré and Didier Drogba got 2847 (29%) and 637 (7%) of the votes, respectively.



The 22 year-old Eritrean is a rising star in the world of cycling. His victory in the Presidential Tour of Turkey in 2013 made him the first ever African to win a major European tournament. The title ‘African Cycling Champion of 2012’ is also one of his many shining achievements.

### Diplomatic Missions and International Organizations in Eritrea

<i>DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS (EMBASSIES)</i>		<i>INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>China</i></li> <li>2. <i>Djibouti</i></li> <li>3. <i>Egypt</i></li> <li>4. <i>European Union</i></li> <li>5. <i>France</i></li> <li>6. <i>Germany</i></li> <li>7. <i>Israel</i></li> <li>8. <i>Italy</i></li> <li>9. <i>Libya</i></li> <li>10. <i>Qatar</i></li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11. <i>Russia</i></li> <li>12. <i>Saudi Arabia</i></li> <li>13. <i>South Africa</i></li> <li>14. <i>South Sudan</i></li> <li>15. <i>Sudan</i></li> <li>16. <i>Turkey</i></li> <li>17. <i>United Kingdom</i></li> <li>18. <i>United States of America</i></li> <li>19. <i>Yemen</i></li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>FAO</i></li> <li>2. <i>OCHA</i></li> <li>3. <i>UNAIDS</i></li> <li>4. <i>UNDP</i></li> <li>5. <i>UNFPA</i></li> <li>6. <i>UNHCR</i></li> <li>7. <i>UNICEF</i></li> <li>8. <i>WFP</i></li> <li>9. <i>WHO</i></li> <li>10. <i>ICRC</i></li> </ol>