



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



Eritreans at Home and in the Diaspora Hold Annual Summer Festivals in Colorful Manner

The annual Eritrean Summer Festivals of 2015 are being held at home and in the Diaspora in a manner that reflects the strong unity and patriotism of Eritreans.

At the national level, Festival Eritrea 2015 was held in Asmara from 25 July to 2 August 2015. The theme for this year was 'Festival: Hub of Harmony'. The Festival saw the participation of hundreds of thousands of Eritreans from all the corners of the country. *(Pictures from the Festival are available on page 3)*

The Festivals which have their roots in the pre-independence era have the objectives of, to name a few, further strengthening the unity and solidarity of Eritreans, ensuring the continuity of the Eritrean people's rich cultures and traditions, providing fora for discussions on national issues as well as regional and international developments affecting the country.

The festivals involve seminars on the situation in Eritrea and the region by senior officials, prominent Eritreans and friends of Eritrea. The Festivals



Similarly, so far Eritrean communities in Italy, Germany, Holland, UK, Scandinavian Countries and Canada have held their Festivals. The annual gatherings were attended by tens of thousands of Eritreans and friends of Eritrea. *(Pictures from the Festivals are available on page 4 and 5)*

also feature the vibrant music and cultural performances of all the ethnic groups of Eritrea, children's sport competitions, pictorial exhibitions, trade fairs etc...

The 2015 Summer Festival season will continue with the upcoming Festivals in Washington DC and Oakland.

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 **Eritrean Mission to
AU & ECA**

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Trailblazer Cyclists Accorded Heroes' Welcome

Eritrean cyclists Daniel Teklehaimanot and Merhawi Kudus were accorded heroes' welcome upon their arrival in Asmara on 1st of August following their ground breaking participation and outstanding performances at the Tour de France 2015.

Tens of thousands of residents of Asmara and its environs turned up to give rousing welcome to the cycling heroes. The ceremony which was broadcast live on the national Television and Radio took place from Asmara International Airport to Bahti Meskerem Square.

Following the enthusiastic welcoming ceremony, President Isaias Afwerki received the two cyclists at State House and congratulated them on behalf of the people and Government of Eritrea.

The President pointed out that the brilliant performance of the Eritrean cyclists at the Tour de France attests to the existing potential for excellence in cycling and other fields in Eritrea.



Daniel presented to President Isaias the polka-dot jersey he don as the King of the Mountains for four consecutive days in the Tour de France 2015.



Flydubai to Launch Flights to Asmara

Dubai-based flydubai announced the addition of Eritrea to its African network. Direct flights between Dubai and Asmara will commence on 25 October 2015 with 4 flights a week - on Monday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday.

Commenting on the launch, Ghaith Al Ghaith, flydubai CEO said, "We are delighted to add a direct link between the UAE and another emerging market with great potential for more growth"

Sudhir Sreedharan, Senior Vice President Commercial (GCC, Subcontinent, Africa) for flydubai, said: "flydubai will be the first UAE carrier to connect Dubai with Asmara as trade and tourism continue to rise between the UAE, Africa and the rest of the worldAdditionally flights to Asmara will provide the Eritrean diaspora with greater opportunity to visit their families and friends in their home country."



The addition of flydubai will provide more options to the Eritrean aviation market which is now being served by Eritrean Airlines, Turkish Airlines, Qatar Airways, Sudan Airways, EgyptAir, Nova Airways and Yemenia.



Festival Eritrea 2015 - Asmara, 25 July-2 August 2015



**Festival Eritrea in Italy
Milan, 27-28 June 2015**



**19th Eritrean Festival in Germany
Giessen, 3-5 July 2015**



**14th Eritrean Festival in Holland
Rijswijk, 10-12 July 2015**



**15th Eritrean Festival in the United Kingdom
London, 25-26 July 2015**



**17th Eritrean Festival in Scandinavian Countries
Stockholm, 30 July- 2 August 2015**



**15th Festival Eritrea in Toronto
1-3 August 2015**



Children's Grassroots Festival of Central Region held in Asmara

The 7th Children's Grassroots Festival of the Central Region was held from 19-30 July 2015 at the Asmara Stadium, under the theme "Sport - a forum through which we can attain our objective and aspiration." At the Festival, 4000 children forming 108 teams partici

pated in various sports competitions. The Eritrean people and government consider sport activities as important means of nurturing active and healthy youth.



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