



The Migrant

IOM Special Liaison Office, Addis Ababa Newsletter | Volume 2 Issue 3 | December 2011



Ethiopia

Becomes a Member of IOM

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More on page 2



inside this issue

- Ethiopia becomes a Member of IOM **2**
- 60th Anniversary at SLO Addis Ababa **3**
- Launch of the AU.COMMIT with SADC Member States **5**
- Regional Mixed Migration Committee Meeting Held in Addis Ababa **6**
- 2011 Year in Review **7**

60 YEARS

Assisting Migrants Worldwide



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Ethiopia

Becomes a Member of IOM



The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia becomes a full member of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) as of December 5 2011. Ethiopia has been admitted at the 100th council session of IOM held from 5 to 7 December 2011.

At the councils meeting Ethiopia's Ambassador to Geneva, Switzerland, Menilik Alemu, appreciated IOM for unanimously accepting Ethiopia to be a member of the organization, according to the statement issued by the ministry of foreign affairs. He also stated that the membership would help to respect the rights of migrants from different parts of the world and enable Ethiopians to have clear information.

Moreover, the membership would also foster international cooperation to address the challenges of migrants and further enhance the ongoing cooperation framework of IGAD. Ambassador Menlik expressed Ethiopia's commitment to work closely with IOM and commends IOM for supporting the return of Ethiopians.

The 100 council session of IOM admitted 14 new Member States (Djibouti, Chad, Ethiopia, Maldives, Guyana, Nauru, Comoros, Antigua and Barbuda, the Holy See, the Federated

States of Micronesia, South Sudan, Mozambique, Seychelles and Vanuatu) and five new observers (the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the NGO Committee on Migration, the East African Community (EAC), the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)).

The membership of Ethiopian to IOM was celebrated by the Mission in Addis Ababa at a cocktail reception held at the Sheraton Addis Hotel. On the occasion of the event, Ato Elias Melaku, acting Director General for International organizations Directorate, from Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed his deepest appreciation for "the important support IOM extended to Ethiopia in particular, on the safe, orderly and humane returning of Ethiopian nationals from different parts of the world; recently from Yemen and Tanzania for example."

Further more he stressed that Ethiopia will give priority to focusing on improving the welfare of migrants and uphold their rights. The guests in attendance included government officials, ambassadors, UN heads of agencies and IOM Ethiopia staff. ■

Ato Elias Melaku (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) giving his remarks during the reception ▼



60th Anniversary at SLO Addis Ababa

IOM Special Liaison Office (SLO) in Addis Ababa has successfully organized three events to celebrate IOM 60th anniversary. The first event was an interactive session with women parliamentarians, The second was International Migration Law training (IML) for Ethiopian Officials and finally a staff party in the office.

Interactive Session on Human Trafficking and Irregular Migration with Ethiopian Women MPs

IOM organized an interactive session on the issue of human trafficking and irregular migration to sensitize women members of parliaments (MPs) on 10 June, 2011 at the Hilton hotel, Addis Ababa. The session was held as part of the series of events to celebrate the IOM's 60th anniversary. It was organized with the aim of increasing awareness among policy makers on the abuse and inhumane treatment that people face in the hands of human traffickers.

The half day interactive session attracted close to 140 Women Parliamentarians as well as major government partners, UN Heads of Agencies, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and the media. The event was attended by 170 participants. ■



“In a world in which more people are on the move than at any other time in recorded history, the International Organization for Migration continues —after more than 60 years—to assist migrants and help build dialogue among nations to ensure orderly and humane responses to the challenges and opportunities presented by human mobility in the 21st Century.”

*William Lacy Swing,
IOM Director General*

International Migration Law Training for Ethiopian Officials



The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has successfully organized an International Migration Law (IML) Training for Ethiopian Officials from 6-7 December 2011. The two day session which was prearranged as part of the IOM 60th anniversary celebration was meant to enhance understanding of the legal instruments that govern migration at the national, regional, and international levels. The objective of the training was to raise the awareness of government officials and partners working in the area of migration on the importance of these instruments in the overall management of migration.

In her opening remarks, Ms. Atsede Kidanu, Director General of Consular Affairs at Ministry of Foreign Affairs, indicated that participants of the IML training will benefit profoundly from the sessions and assured that the Ethiopian Government takes the partnership with IOM “very seriously and jointly”. She also stressed that Ethiopia will continue working with IOM towards the common goal of managing migration effectively. The head of mission of the IOM Special Liaison Office in Addis Ababa, Mr. Josiah Ogina, on his part acknowledge Ethiopia’s commitment to work with IOM and this collaboration will be further strengthened as Ethiopia takes full membership in IOM as of December 5, 2011.

The issue of migration requires an in-depth understanding of the phenomenon through information sharing and training on the principles. The principles of IML are derived from various instruments of international law applicable to the migration process and migrants. This includes instruments of human rights law, labour law, humanitarian law, refugee law, nationality law, law of the sea, criminal law and many more. The international migration law course gave an overview of the legal framework

governing international migration, including the rights and responsibilities of states and migrants. In the two day session, participants were taken through all the legal landscapes of migration with descriptive presentations, case studies, and video shows. Participants were also engaged in group discussion and worked on case studies. Group representatives then presented their arguments for the plenary which was followed by a heated discussion.

The feedback obtained from the daily evaluation forms indicated that participants found the training very helpful and equipped themselves with the different legal aspects of migration.

The two day training attracted participants from different government ministries such as Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, Ministry of Women, Children and Youth Affairs, other partner organization, UN agencies, and academics. ■

International Migration Law Training in session





IOM Special Liaison Office (SLO) in Addis Ababa celebrated the IOM 60th anniversary with a staff party held in the office on December 23, 2011. The staff members came together to commemorate IOM's 60 years of assisting migrants worldwide. Acknowledging his long service in IOM Ethiopia, Mr Tafesse Ayalew, operation assistant, was given the honor to cut the 60th anniversary cake. Mr. Tafesse has been working in IOM for 11 years which makes him the longest serving staff in the mission. In his short remark, Mr. Tafesse remembered how small the IOM mission in Ethiopia was when he started in 2000; the mission had only 8 staff members and the programmes were only limited to Addis Ababa. He also express his gratitude to see IOM in Ethiopia grew dramatically through the years with over 170 staff and more programmes in Addis Ababa and the regions. The event was SLO Addis's final activity of the 60th anniversary celebrations.

Launch of the African Union Commission Initiative against Trafficking (AU.COMMIT) with SADC Member States

The African Union Commission Initiative against Trafficking (AU.COMMIT) was launched for the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) region during a consultative meeting on November 29th and 30th, 2011 in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The launching, which was held in the presence of Member State and other stakeholders, is the fourth of its kind as similar events were organized in Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and East African Community (EAC) regions since 2010. These regional launches aim at sensitizing countries of the same region on the issue of human trafficking, enhancing regional cooperation, and sharing best practices that exist in the continent.

The African Union adopted the Ouagadougou Action Plan (OAP) to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, Especially Women and Children at a Ministerial Conference held on Migration and Development in Tripoli, in November 2006.

The Action Plan recognizes the problems that African States face with regards to human trafficking. As a response to this challenge, it sets a guideline for Member States to address the issue of trafficking in a comprehensive manner focusing on prevention and awareness raising, victim protection and assistance as well as proper Legislative Framework, Policy Development and Law Enforcement.

Since the adoption of the OAP, the African Union Commission has been working with a Taskforce composed of IOM, UNHCR, UNODC and other stakeholders to popularize the AU.COMMIT campaign among Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and their Member States.

IOM has been supporting this campaign led by the African Union Commission along with other members of the AU.COMMIT Taskforce. ■



Regional Mixed Migration Committee Meeting Held in Addis Ababa

The Regional Committee on Mixed Migration for the Horn of Africa and Yemen held its first meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from the 13- 14 December 2011 at the United Nations conference center. The meeting addressed mixed migration concerns in the Horn of Africa and Yemen, in relation to rescue at sea, smuggling and trafficking of migrants and the role of migration response centers.

The formation of the Regional Committee on Mixed Migration is a direct follow up to the recommendations made during the 2010 Regional Consultations held in Djibouti. The two day meeting enabled the regional Committee to meet for the first time with the intended outcome of improved collaboration between Governments in the Horn of Africa and Yemen as well with international partners to effectively manage migration and improve migrants' conditions.

Opening the session Ethiopian Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, Abdufetaah Abdulahi stated that lack of democracy, unemployment and inadequate payment are some of the main factors for migration in the Horn of Africa. The head of mission and representative to AU/ECA/IGAD Mr. Josiah Ogina said that regional cooperation is very critical to address the challenges of irregular migration and urge participants to come up with recommendations that will benefit all states.

The purpose of the Regional Committee meeting was to improve collaboration between Governments in the Horn of Africa and Yemen as well with international partners to effectively manage migration and improve migrants' conditions. The committee is made up of representatives from the Governments of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Puntland, Somaliland and Yemen. Participants from each country presented to the plenary on the different activities that their respective government are doing.



H.E Ato Abdufetaah Abdulahi, Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, opening the meeting ▲

The meeting also came up with recommendations on support among governments in the sub-region on the issues of rescue at sea, coast guard capacity building and material assistance, awareness raising and assistance for victims, national action plans and cross border data. The recommendations were livelihood creation and awareness raising as priorities while creation of more Migration Response Centres in a number of locations, with an emphasis on medical services, family unification, voluntary return, and women and children issues.

The Horn of Africa has unique migration challenges. Thousands of irregular migrants perish every year as they attempt to cross borders through dangerous means to escape conflict, drought and economic difficulties. Migrants make the journey from their places of origin through Puntland and Somaliland to Djibouti and across the Gulf of Aden to Yemen and the Gulf States. The regional committee acknowledges the scale of this problem and is placing emphasis on strategic regional initiatives that would ensure a reduction and eventual stop on the loss of lives at sea. ■

2011

YEAR IN REVIEW



IOM Director General Inaugurates SLO Addis Ababa New Office. On the occasion of the inauguration and in the presence of the Director General, SLO Addis Ababa also launched the two year strategic plan of the mission. The strategic plan (20011-2012) links IOM operations with the national priorities of Ethiopia

January



In February 2011, IOM SLO Addis participated in Technical Committee of Experts Meeting on African Diaspora that was held in Pretoria, South Africa. The meeting was organized by the African Union Commission – Civil society and Diaspora department (CIDO) and the Government of South Africa. IOM SLO Addis is also working with AU / WB and AfDB in developing in the establishment of the African Remittances Institute (AIR PROJECT).

February



Following the meeting of the Directors of Immigration from IGAD member states in which a recommendation was made to establish a regional structure to “facilitate information sharing and coordination among IGAD Member States (MS) and institutions with migration related functions and responsibilities , IGAD established the Regional Migration Coordination Committee (RMCC) in March 2011 with the support of IOM and its “Capacity Building in Migration and Border Management for Selected IGAD Member States” project. IOM played a significant role in coordinating and facilitating the process through the IOM technical advisor seconded to the IGAD. The official launch of the RMCC took place in Nairobi on March 24th in the presence of Directors of Immigration from IGAD Member states. In the official final document validating the RMCC, these senior officials “[urged] the IGAD Secretariat to put this as an agenda item at its next IGAD Council of Ministers meeting for consideration and endorsement”.

March



A consultative workshop on the operationalization of the Ouagadougou Action Plan was held in Arusha, Tanzania on May 24- 25, 2011. The meeting, organized with the collaboration of African Union Commission (AUC), International Organization for Migration (IOM), East African community (EAC) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) aimed on how to put the Ouagadougou Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking in to action.

May



A draft Diaspora Policy document has been prepared by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia. IOM through the Migration for Development in Ethiopia (MIDEth) programme supported MoFA to develop the policy document. MIDEth also facilitated the mobilization and utilization of skilled Ethiopian diaspora and friends of Ethiopia from Europe and North America to participate in short term assignments in hospitals and universities in Ethiopia. The programme further contributed in the building of capacities of the government institutions including regional diaspora coordination offices by providing training and office equipments.

June

July

IOM secured ECHO funding which has enabled it to expand its activities to support displaced and vulnerable communities affected by drought and conflict in southern Ethiopia. Consequently, IOM opened a field office in Moyale town along the Ethio-Kenyan border.



August

IOM commences operations in Dollo Ado as part of its response to the Horn of Africa crisis. In this operation, IOM is providing safe and dignified transportation assistance to drought affected Somali refugees. IOM health team is also building the capacity of the government in the provision of primary health care by providing health professionals and essential supplies. As of December 31, 2011 IOM has assisted the transportation of more than 45000 refugees while the health team performed consultation and medical assistance to 7854 refugees in Melkedida and Bokolmanyo camps.



September

The continued conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement – North (SPLM-N) in the Blue Nile State is affecting civilians in the area and causes displacement. Following this situation, IOM started providing transportation assistance to Sudanese refugees who are fleeing the armed conflict. Starting from early September up to the end of December, IOM has transported 16077 Sudanese refugees in to camps in Ethiopia.



October

IOM participated in events to celebrate UN Day with a week of activities that highlight Ethiopia's positive progress towards achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). One of the events organized was volunteer lecture at Addis Ababa University which IOM facilitated. This event aims to share some of the expertise and experience of the UN with the academic community in Ethiopia.



November

Humanitarian assistance to stranded migrants saves lives. In November, IOM facilitated the voluntary returning of stranded Ethiopian migrants both from Yemen and Tanzania. During 2011, a total of 5290, 909, 1005 and 191 Ethiopian migrants had been assisted to return home from Yemen, Tanzania, Somaliland and Libya respectively. IOM also continues to support migrants through its Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration programmes, working in close coordination with Government counterparts.



December

The 16th International Conference on AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections in Africa (ICASA) was held in Addis Ababa from 4-8 December 2011, under the theme "own, scale-up & sustain." IOM together with other UN Agencies has participated in this important conference showcasing its migration and health activities. The conference provides a forum for exchange of scientific knowledge, experiences and best practices in Africa and around the world in all dimensions of HIV/AIDS and STIs. ICASA 2011 has attracted more than 10,000 participants all over the world.



Editorial

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The IOM Mission

IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As the leading international organization for migration, IOM acts with partners in the international community to:

- Assist in meeting the growing operational challenges of migration management
- Advance understanding of migration issues
- Encourage social and economic development

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