

United Nations Environment Programme

# Addis Ababa Highlights



## Africa takes steps to engage intellectuals



The African Union is taking bold steps to engage intellectuals as part of its development efforts.

As one of the steps in this direction, the AU is wooing intellectuals from all over the world to meet from October 7-9, 2004, at the first Conference of Intellectuals from Africa and the Diaspora (CIAD) in Dakar, Senegal. In planning for the Conference, which boasts a guest list of over 700 participants ranging from African Heads of State, Nobel Prize Laureates, activists, scientists, doctors, artists, lawyers and more, the AU has already sponsored three meetings: May 2004 (Dakar), June 2004 (Addis Ababa) and August 2004 (Addis Ababa) in preparation for the event.

The Conference is the brainchild of H.E. Abdoulaye Wade, President of the Republic of Senegal, and has been supported by the AU summits of Lome (2000), Maputo (2003) and Addis Ababa (2004). It carries a general theme: *Africa in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Integration and Renaissance*. This theme is supported by six sub-themes, which include: *Panafricanism in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Contribution of Intellectuals from Africa and the Diaspora to the Strengthening of African Integration in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, African Identity within a Multicultural Framework, The Place of Africa in the World, The Relations Between Africa and the Diaspora* and finally *Africa, Science, and Technology: Stakes and Prospects*.

The Conference is motivated primarily by a desire to hear and mobilize the voice of the intellectual community, particularly on issues concerning Africa's future, gov-

ernance, development and integration of the African Union and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). It will promote the sharing of intellectual expressions, irrespective of nationality.

Other activities expected to be part of the Conference include a gala evening in honor of the Nobel Prize Laureates, cultural activities, book exhibitions and theatrical presentations. Special consideration will be given to the patrons, personalities that will be honored on account of the historic contribution to Africa's rehabilitation effort. The growing list of patrons include Nobel Peace Prize recipients such as Albert Lu-

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*Below:*

*Group picture of the participants of the regional workshop aimed at promoting ratification of the Basel Protocol on Liability and Compensation for Damage resulting from the Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Waste and their Disposal.*

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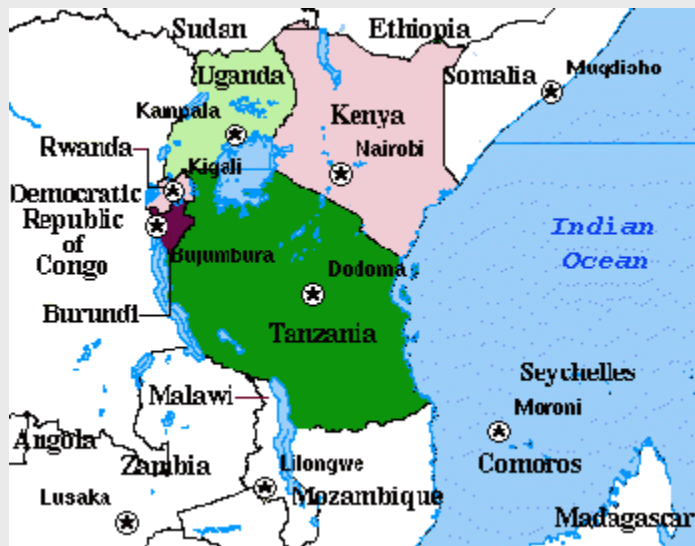
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# African Union



## African Union appoints Special Envoy to the Great Lakes

Ambassador Mamadou Bah has been appointed as the Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region by the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union. In an announcement issued on 30 August, the AU Commission said that Ambassador Mamadou Bah would work closely with the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General to the Great Lakes, Professor Ibrahim Fall, to prepare for the Conference on Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation in the Great Lakes, which is scheduled for November 2004.

The newly appointed envoy is a veteran of the politics in the region, where he has been serving for years as Special Representative of the AU Observer Mission in Burundi.

## African Energy Commission gets an Interim Executive Director

The African Union has appointed an Interim Executive Director for the African Energy Commission (AFREC). Dr. Hussein Alhaj, a Sudanese national, assumed duties at the beginning of August 2004. He holds a Masters' and a Doctorate in energy management.

AFREC was established by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government in Lusaka in 2001 by Decision AHG/Dec.167 (XXXVII). The Energy Commission reports to the AU Commission through the AU Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, Bernard Zoba. Its principal task is to "promote the development and integration of energy resources and systems in Africa with a view to supporting rapid economic and social development, effective protection of the environment and improvement of the standard and quality of life in Member States". The Secretariat of AFREC is based in Algiers, Algeria, and is being run on an interim basis.



The Interim Executive Director is expected to facilitate the recruitment of staff and to prepare a comprehensive short-, medium- and long-term programme of work which indicates human and financial resource requirements for the operationalization

of the energy commission. The appointment of Dr. Hussein will make it possible for the Energy Commission to commence implementation of priority activities in the short-term programme of the organization. Partners such as UN-Energy/Africa, the framework for inter-agency collaboration in support of the energy programme of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), will thus have a key access point for coordinating technical assistance to the continent.

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## Africa takes steps to engage intellectuals

tuli (South Africa), Anwar Al Sadat (Egypt), Desmond Tutu (South Africa), Nelson Mandela (South Africa), Frederick De Klerck (South Africa), Kofi Annan (Ghana/UN), Martin Luther King (U.S.A.), Ralph Bunche (U.S.A.); Nobel Laureates Wole Soyinka (Nigeria) Neguib Mafouz (Egypt), Nadine Gordimer (South Africa), John Maxwell Coetzee (South Africa) Toni Morrison (U.S.A.) and Derek Walcott (St. Lucia); Nobel Prize Winner in Economics Sir Arthur Lewis and Nobel Prize recipient in Science and Chemistry Ahmed Zewail (Egypt).

Expected outcomes of the meeting include numerous publications on the Conference, documents written by individual participants and organizations such as the Association of African Universities, the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA), Organization for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa (OSSREA), Associations of Historians, Anthropologists, Editors, and so on, a comprehensive website and database and a Secretariat that will be responsible for organizing the conference every three years.

## Ethiopia holds MDGs Needs Assessment Workshop on Methodological Issues

A two-day workshop on Needs Assessment on Methodological Issues for the Implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) was held on August 23-24. The major objectives of the Workshop were to sensitize members of the Welfare Monitoring Technical Committee, the Needs Assessment consultants, the Department of Economic Policy and Planning, the MDGs Task Force, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and other relevant stakeholders, on the objectives and contents of the Needs Assessment (NA) process and to build consensus among the various actors on the way forward. Keynote speakers were State Minister of Finance, Mekonnen Manyazewal; World Bank Country Director, Ishac Diwan; and UNICEF Representative Bjorn Ljungqvist. On behalf of the UNCT, Mr. Ljungqvist stressed that the workshop was an important step to assure the needs assessment and meet the MDG targets.

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***. . . urban development, environment and population should be central to the development plan and need to be included in the crosscutting issues.***

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Chandrika Bahadur, from the UN Millennium Project, made an introductory presentation on the MDGs-based planning, including linkages with ongoing analytical efforts. Issues raised in this discussion included integrating the human rights based approach into the MDG targets, the issue of girl's education, capacity building, social mobilization, and civil society participation.

A presentation entitled "Overview of the World Bank's Conceptual Framework on MDGs" was made by Teresa Osborne. In the ensuing discussion, the issue of food security was raised in light of drought and famine, which are recurrent, especially in Ethiopia. Ms. Bahadur also made an introductory presentation on cross-cutting issues in MDGs Needs Assessment (such as gender, population, and HIV/AIDS). It was emphasized that these cross-cutting issues need to be incorporated across sectors, in that the educational sector can affect the level of HIV/AIDS spread and gender empowerment. It was also recommended that urban development, environment, and population be central to the development plan and, hence, need to be included in the cross-cutting issues. The Workshop also identified infrastructure as one of the missing MDG targets, yet it is a necessary condition for creating an enabling environment for the private sector to participate in building the

economy.

The Workshop had four parallel breakout sessions. One of the sessions discussed the water and sanitation sector. The cost of achieving the MDGs was also discussed, as was the share of the government to cover operating and maintenance costs. Following these discussions, the chairpersons of the breakout sessions presented their respective sector discussion outcomes to the plenary on the second day of the workshop.

Participants suggested that monitoring and evaluation should be built into the system, and that confusion between health and water (sanitation) should be cleared among the respective line ministries. Discussants also raised the issue of natural resources being degraded rapidly, and questioned why farmers are not investing in environmental conservation practices.

The overview of the World Bank's MAMS framework on inter-sectoral linkages and the relevance to Ethiopia was presented by World Bank Chief Economist, Dr. Dominique Van der Mensbrughe. In his presentation, Dr. Mensbrughe stressed the need for a comprehensive framework on inter-sectoral linkages for the achievements of the MDG targets. Presentations on identification of key Needs Assessment issues in urban development, private sector development and trade followed. Macroeconomic issues, sources of growth, growth/poverty nexus, and budget constraints were also discussed.

It was noted that the Secretariat for Needs Assessment is now operational and the basis for revising the UN framework for MDGs was outlined. The consultants for the NA exercise are currently working under the guidance of the sectoral line ministers. It was also outlined that the WB and IMF are fully on board to help in the MDGs target achievement. Hence, the interventions needed to achieve the MDGs and assess the NA shall be holistic and should avoid duplication of efforts.

In the closing session, State Minister, Mekonnen Manyazewal, raised the issue of being practical and committed to meeting the MDGs, and as the first Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction Plan (SDPRP1) phases out next year, the Needs Assessment exercise will serve as a basis for the SDPRP2. It also serves as an input for the Secretary-General's report to the General Assembly. Mr. Manyazewal also stressed that the NA exercise is not new for the line ministries rather it already existed in their short-, medium-, and long-term plans.

What is needed now is to broaden their plans to fit the MDG targets and identify interventions extending the time horizon. In terms of ownership, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MOFED) serves as the coordinating and facilitating body, and the respective line ministries are the owners in the sense of doing the real work. Mr. Manyazewal made his final remark by appreciating the efforts of the UNCT, the World Bank and the Millennium Project for the financial and technical support that made the exercise fruitful.

# UN in Addis

## Hazardous Waste: Liability and Compensation

The Secretariat of the Basel Convention, in conjunction with the Swiss Government, sponsored a regional workshop aimed at promoting ratification of the Basel Protocol on Liability and Compensation for Damage resulting from the Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Waste and their Disposal. The Workshop was held from 30 August to 2 September in Addis Ababa.

The opening session of the workshop was chaired by the Director of Ethiopia's Environment Protection Authority, Dr. Tewolde Berhan Gebre Egziabher. Welcoming remarks were made by H.E. Harka Haroye, Minister of Justice of Ethiopia, and the Ambassador of Switzerland, H.E. René Schaetti. An address by the Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the Basel Convention, Dr. Sachiko Kuwabara-Yamamoto, was played to the audience and introduced by Donata Rugarabamu, Senior Legal Officer in the Secretariat of the Basel Convention. Strike Mkandla and Erika Henson from the UNEP Addis Ababa Office, Girma Hailu from UNDP and Kwadwo Tutu of UNECA, were also present.

The Liability Protocol, which is one of the first international agreements of its kind, imposes liability onto private citizens, by foreign governments, for any damages to person, property or the environment, as a result of a spill of hazardous waste that occurs during transboundary movement. The liability protocol is an outgrowth of Basel Convention, an international agreement that sets a strict programme of tracking, reporting, notification and risk assessment for the transboundary movement of hazardous waste through all countries that are party to it. Currently, 39 of the 53 member States of the African Union are Parties to the Basel Convention, and those countries which have not yet ratified are periodically urged to do so. In the case of the Basel Protocol on Liability and Compensation, 13 African countries are signatories and 3 of those countries have ratified as well.

Ethiopia has the distinction of being the first country to ratify the new liability protocol; other countries have been slow to come on board. It should also be noted that the only other two countries to ratify the protocol in the world so far are Botswana and Togo. Historically, most African countries have been relying on the Bamako Convention (1991) banning the importation of hazardous waste into any African country for protection. On the other hand, proponents of the Basel Convention and the Basel Liability Protocol suggest that a ban is not

enough to protect citizens. Furthermore, it does not help to meet the financial obligations that would be created by an illegal transporter or the obligations that would be imposed by an especially burdensome disaster.

Representatives from the Environmental Protection Authority in Ethiopia were present to speak on behalf of the country's decision to sign onto the agreement. Also in attendance were representatives from Botswana, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Seychelles, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

The Workshop was designed to address difficulties that African countries may face in ratifying the convention, by offering an opportunity for countries to openly discuss any limitations of their civil liability schemes, the availability of domestic insurance to cover generators, exporters, importers and disposers of hazardous waste and finally, any other financial limits that could potentially make a state insolvent in the face of claims on account of large chemical spills with large amounts of damage. While the protocol assigns liability, it is the domestic civil law of each country that will determine, both procedurally and at times substantively, how the law shall be adjudicated, applied and enforced. This is why capacity building for African countries in this area is important. As Dr. Kuwabara mentioned in her broadcast address, the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) referred to the establishment and capacity building of the Basel Convention Regional Centres in Africa as an important activity of the Action Plan of the Environment Initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).



*At the opening of the Workshop on the Basel Protocol on Liability and Compensation, as seated from left to right: H.E. René Schaetti (Ambassador of Switzerland to Ethiopia), Dr. Tewolde Berhan G/Egziabher (Director General, Federal Environmental Protection Authority, Ethiopia), H.E. Harka Haroye (Minister of Justice, Ethiopia), Donata Rugarabamu (Senior Legal Officer, Secretariat of the Basel Convention, Geneva), and Strike Mkandla (UNEP Representative, Addis Ababa Liaison Office).*

# Ethiopia Activities

## Miss World visits Fistula Hospital



*Dr. Catherine Hamlin (left) with Julia Morley (center), Miss World Rosanna Davison (2nd from left), and other beauty queens in discussion with fistula patients*

The reigning Miss World 2003, Rosanna Davison of Ireland, First Runner-up Nazanin Afshin-Jam, and Miss Canada 2003, arrived in Ethiopia on August 10 for a visit to the world renowned Fistula Hospital in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, founded by Dr. Catherine Hamlin and her late husband nearly 44 years ago. Agbani Darego, Miss World 2001 from Nigeria, joined them the following day. The beauty queens were accompanied by pageant organizer, Julia Morley.

On the morning of August 11, Morley and the Miss World Winners were happily received by the hospital, where they were able to meet and talk with the women who had each been helped by the hospital's services. The purpose of the visit to the Fistula Hospital was to raise awareness both in Ethiopia and worldwide about the hospital, which exists primarily on donations and humanitarian aid, and about the condition which plagues women who live without adequate health care all over the world. As a

result of their visit, the Miss World Winners asserted that they would all return to their respective countries to speak about the condition and advocate for more facilities to treat the women who suffer from it.

Fistula is a condition that arises as the result of prolonged obstructed childbirth, especially in situations where trained obstetric intervention is not available, like in many parts of Ethiopia, and many other countries where there are few trained obstetricians. Development and infrastructure of a country also plays a role, as isolation separates the women from the medical care that they need. These factors result in about 5% of childbearing women being subjected to prolonged labor and obstructed childbirth without medical or nursing help.

Sadly, the outcome of this is usually a dead baby and severe damage to the birth canal, which can subsequently cause the development of a Fistula with complete loss of bladder, and sometimes, bowel control. Consequently, the patients then become social outcasts due to the unpleasant odour from urine and sometimes faeces leaking through the vagina. They are often rejected

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## Blue Kebena Riverside Park Development Initiative in Addis Ababa

The Clean and Green Addis Ababa Society (CGAAS) is spearheading the development of a public riverside park. CGAAS, in conjunction with the private sector, Addis Ababa University, government organizations, non-governmental organizations and other interested stakeholders, and with encouragement from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) took the initiative to build a recreational park on Kebena River. The major objectives of the riverside park development are to create a public park and provide public access to this unique area, and to contribute to the improvement of the quality and flow characteristics of the Kebena river water with a vision of 'the Addis Ababa City Rivers' Renaissance' ultimately. Furthermore, reducing the critical health and environmental hazards the river poses to life is the complementary objective.

CGAAS has been organizing and running programs and events, particularly in efforts to change behaviors of residents of Addis Ababa in terms of keeping the city clean and mobilizing resources to execute model road side developments and introducing the idea of model villages/neighborhoods. It has now drawn up a two-year Plan of Action of which Model Park Development is one. The project known as the 'Blue Kebena River Side Park Development' is located in a prime spot on the way to the airport on Bole Road. The project plans to build a series of parks on the Kebena River and its traverses.

The idea of developing a riverside park in line with rendering the rivers clean was raised and favorably thought of on celebration of World Environment Day on June 5, in Addis Ababa. The event mobilized the Addis Ababa community to clean a spot on Bantykatu River and a workshop was held on a project proposal on river basin rehabilitation. It naturally occurred to campaign participants that keeping the rivers clean should continue and not be limited to World Environment Day.

Currently a draft Terms of Reference and a concept note has been prepared for the riverside park development and the process of mobilizing financial resources is also underway. The riverside park development committee welcomes comments and assistance from stakeholders. Comments should be forwarded to Demisse Gizaw at 251-1-552139 or email: [cgaas@telecom.net.et](mailto:cgaas@telecom.net.et).

# Ethiopia Activities

## Nobel Laureate Economist Joseph Stiglitz visits Ethiopia



Professor Joseph Stiglitz, a Nobel Laureate economist, held a Country Dialogue in Ethiopia from August 28-30. Professor Stiglitz is the founder and head of the Initiative for Policy Dialogue (IPD), an international network of economists who specialize in development. Founded in July 2000, the aim of the Initiative is to help

developing and transitioning countries explore policy alternatives, and encourage wider civic participation in economic policy-making.

The delegation from IPD also included London School of Economics Professor Robert Wade and IPD Senior Fellow Akbar Noman. During their three-day stay, the IPD delegation held discussions with the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, the Minister of Finance and Economic Development, members of the private sector, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, academics, the Ethiopian Economics Association, the donor community, politicians and other partners.

The delegation also held a dialogue jointly organized by the Inter-Africa Group and the IPD on "Economic Policy Issues and Options for Ethiopia" with members of the civil society including NGOs, private sector, journalists, Ethiopian Economics Association, Ethiopian Development Research Institute, other academics and politicians. In the dialogue, Professor Stiglitz stressed that domestic resource mobilization is the main source for the take-off of the Ethiopian economy and lack of adequate supply of credit to the private sector is the key problem. Hence, the Ethiopian economy needs to build a strong financial sector.

Dr. Eleni Gabre-Madhin, from the International Food Programme Research Institute (IFPRI), made a presentation on agriculture and food security focusing on a market-led agricultural transformation. In her presentation, Dr. Eleni touched on issues of the small holder traditional farming in Ethiopia, the high transaction costs involved, and agricultural sector being risky in Ethiopia due to high dependence on unpredictable weather conditions. Dr. Eleni proposed that, among other things, Ethiopia needs a market-led transformation in agriculture.

Dr. Haile Kibret, from the Ethiopian Economics Association, presented an overview of Ethiopian macro policies and made proposals on the solutions to the different macro economic problems of the Ethiopian economy. Another presentation was made by Dr. Alemayehu Seyoum on the private sector of Ethiopia.

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## Public considers Ethiopia's Integrated Forest Policy Development

The sixth Public Information Meeting on Integrated Forest Policy Development in Ethiopia was held on August 12. The meeting was organized by the Forum for Environment (FfE), an association dealing with environmental issues in Ethiopia.

The opening speech was made by a member of the FfE Secretariat, Negussu Aklilu, who reported that Ethiopia has drafted a forest policy and said that the meeting would contribute to developing and finalizing the draft forest policy. He further underscored that FfE's advocacy theme for 2004 is the forestry issues in Ethiopia. To this end, the organization has conducted a series of public meetings at which a number of salient issues were addressed, all of which are strongly recommended, by FfE, to be included in the upcoming national forest policy. Considering the continued degradation of forests and forest resources in the country at an alarming rate, Ato Negussu added, FfE will also continue to advocate for the enforcement of existing legislation on the environment in general and forests and forest resources in particular.

Two review papers were presented by resource persons, with Dr Minassie Gashaw from The Wildlife Conservation Department of the Ministry of Agriculture in the chair. The first presenter, Hailayesus Sebehatu from the Addis Ababa Urban Agricultural Office, presented a study on Urban Forestry Issues in the Draft Forest Policy. He argued that urban forestry should be considered in the forest policy. He emphasized that forestry is not just a rural issue, it should be encouraged in urban areas as well. As population size is rapidly increasing in the cities of Ethiopia, the economic and social activities contribute to the overheating and crowdedness of urban areas as well as increased pollution risks. Hence, urban greening, including urban forestry, offers improvements in air, water, and land resources by absorbing air pollutants, increasing water catchments, flood plain surfaces, and stabilizing soils. Furthermore, urban forests act as temperature buffers - providing shade in the rainy season and serving as wind breaks. They also reduce noise pollution and carbon dioxide levels in cities. Mr. Sebehatu

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Professor Stiglitz, who won the Nobel Prize in Economics in 2001, is a Professor at Columbia University. He was Chief Economist and Vice President of the World Bank from 1997 to 2000 and a member and Chair of the Council of Economic Advisors and Cabinet Member under President Clinton 1994-1997. Professor Wade is an expert in industrial and trade policy and political economy; known for his work in analyzing East Asia's development strategy. Akbar Noman is a leading expert on African development and a former staff member of the World Bank; he has worked extensively on Ethiopian issues.

# Ethiopia activities

## Public Considers Ethiopia's Integrated Forest Policy . . .

concluded that the forest policy should include urban forestry issues such as priority for indigenous tree species, restructuring of implementing institutions, and privatizing (outsourcing) most of the activities in the sector.

Yeyesuswork Bekele, from the Federal Environment Protection Authority, presented a paper on Gender and Forestry. Ms. Bekele's presentation touched on issues of gender analysis, women's empowerment, roles and responsibilities, access to resources, and effective use of resources between males and females. She also underlined that lack of women's rights causes a decrease in women's participation in the conservation and protection of natural resources in general and forestry in particular. Furthermore, differences in the skill and knowledge of use of natural resources between females and males leads to the difference in their ability to conserve their environment and forest resources. According to Ms. Bekele, females usually use forestry for their day to day activities in order to sustain the lives of their families and sometimes for medicinal purposes as well. The presentation also cited that difference in access and use of forest resources is evident between male and female users.

In the policy formulation and gender issue, she emphasized that the environment policy states that women shall equally have access to natural resources with men. Furthermore, when issues of reducing deforestation are raised, one needs to promote alternative income-generating means for females to reduce cutting trees and also provide alternative energy sources and energy-efficient techniques. Furthermore, gender awareness programmes such as training and participatory workshops, need to be undertaken. She concluded by highlighting the issue of ownership of forest resources, access to information by females, alternative technology development, research and development, and access to forest education/training, forest development, conservation and use.

The meeting ended by recommending that the draft forest policy should not overlook urban forestry and women's issues.

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## Miss World Visits . . .

and isolated by their husbands and families. The Fistula Hospital helps women with this condition.

Some patients are so incapacitated that they are unable to return to their rural homes. To help, a fistula community was started outside Addis Ababa, which houses them. The village is called Desta Mender or "Joy Village"; the visitors toured the village during the afternoon to meet with the patients and staff who live and work there.

During the evening the Mayor of Addis Ababa, Arkebe Oqubay, invited the group to a Civic Reception where they met local dignitaries. Dr. Hamlin was awarded the title of "Honorary Citizen of Ethiopia" for her work at the hospital.

## Farewell Erika Henson

Erika Henson, one of the founding staff of **Addis Ababa Highlights**, has left Addis Ababa for her base at the University of Vermont Law School, USA. She wrote several reports in the current edition and worked right up to the end to ensure that the newsletter came out as planned.



*Erika Henson receives gift from Strike Mkandla*

Erika spent three months as an intern of UN-Water/Africa of which UNEP is a member. The UNEP Addis Ababa Office provided working space for her internship while all the equipment and official clearance was provided by ECA. Jointly supervised by UNEP and the Sustainable Development Division of ECA (SDD), Erika's main assignment was desk research on water treaties in Africa. Her report will be an input towards development of a comprehensive programme for UN-Water/Africa, including promotion of water sharing as an instrument of regional cooperation in Africa.

In addition to her core assignment, Erika has made invaluable contributions to the "other duties" in her terms of reference. The UNEP Addis Ababa Office, particularly the Editorial Team of **Addis Ababa Highlights**, has been the greatest beneficiary of Erika's enthusiasm and creativity. We therefore hope that our paths will cross again some day.

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## Addis Ababa Highlights Team

*Feedback: [unepoffice@uneca.org](mailto:unepoffice@uneca.org)*

*Editor-in-Chief: Strike Mkandla*

*Editor: Maria Thundu*

*Production: Erika Henson, Selome Missael, Sindu Workneh*