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ETHIOPIA

PRESS RELEASE

Celebration of ITEC Day 2018

Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Day 2018 was celebrated in the Embassy on 27th November, 2018. More than 200 ITEC alumni attended the event. The Chief Guest on this occasion was Her Excellency Dr. Ergoge Tesfaye, Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, Government of Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. She did her Ph.d Anthropology from Andhra University under ICCR programme in India. The event was attended by Director General, Asia and Oceania Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia, former Members of Parliament, ITEC beneficiaries and other important dignitaries.

Two documentaries “**ITEC @ 50 Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme and India-Africa Partnership for Progress**” were also shown to the guests. A publication titled “India-Ethiopia-70 years of Diplomatic Relations” was also distributed.

In the formal part of the event, three ITEC alumni, Mr. Kahen Abbiy, Ms. Meron Mario and Ms. Deborah Teka shared their fond memories and experiences of their training and stay in India. They recalled the cultural similarities witnessed and bonds of friendship forged made during their stay in India. They appreciated the efforts of the Government of India through the Embassy in providing such scholarship and training opportunities which had greatly supported the Ethiopian government in its capacity building efforts.

Ambassador Anurag Srivastava in his address highlighted the strong bonds of India-Ethiopia cooperation in the field of education which commenced with the arrival of Indian teachers to teach in elementary schools in various parts of Ethiopia. He outlined various elements of capacity building supports provided by India through trainings/scholarships programme under ITEC, ICCR, IAFS etc. He also mentioned about the Betre Science initiative launched by the Government of Ethiopia under which 670 students went to study in India last year. He also informed the participants about the Study in India programme. He invited suggestions from the ITEC Alumni to further enhance the benefits and reach of India's capacity building efforts in Ethiopia. He invited the alumni to closely engage with the Embassy in its efforts to further strengthen the alumni network in Ethiopia as well as enhance its activities.

Minister Dr. Ergoge Tesfaye, Chief Guest, who attended the event in Indian attire, spoke about the benefits of training under the ITEC programme to the Ethiopian trainees. She said that India was second home to her. She fondly



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recalled her culinary experiments in India and different types of dishes she had loved during her stay in India. She expressed her gratitude towards the Government of India in providing various capacity building programmes for the benefit of people of Ethiopia.

In 2007-08, the number of training slots offered under ITEC was 25 and during 2018-2019 it has increased to 400 slots. Embassy of India, Addis Ababa has so far sent 2574 Ethiopian students under this programme. Within the framework of cooperation under IAFS, 133 Ethiopians have benefited from programmes in diverse areas like solar energy, plant tissue culture etc. The ICCR scholarship scheme is much sought after in Ethiopia and 499 students have availed of this at the under graduate, post graduate and doctoral levels.

In addition, Government of India has launched the Study in India Programme, which provides an online admission portal through which foreign students would be able to apply for admission in more than 150 institutions/universities with one single application. The criteria for admission would be scores obtained in the 12th class examination/SAT scores. Fee waivers ranging from 100% to 25% based on merit and preference to students would be provided. The details of the seats are available on www.studyindia.gov.in.

Every year the ITEC Day is celebrated to connect with alumni of Indian Institutions and further strengthen the bonds of educational cooperation.

29 November 2018