



If we take care of the Earth,
the Earth will take care of us.

Forum for Environment (FfE)

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National news

RIO – 20

Addis Ababa, Capital- The largest gathering ever organized by the United Nations system was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil last month. It brought in more than 50,000 participants from all corners of the globe. The conference that was christened 'Rio + 20' (long before the actual event) however ended up as a grand fiasco, measured by its substantive non-achievements, just as most predicted, including us. The intransigence and continuous bickering of the politicians of the global nation-states proved, yet again, an insurmountable obstacle to addressing, potentially the most dangerous and challenging reality collective humanity has ever faced. Alas, for the politicians of our time the business of life, its preservation and reproduction, proved not as important as the reproduction of the profit system! On the other hand and at the same time, the real summit that seriously deliberated on the big issues in Rio was that of the 'Peoples Summit.' The perpetual failure of the global inter-state system to deal with the critical problems of our era, at long last, is triggering actions by global grass root communities. The idea is to embark on a different route that should not take the politicians and their archaic governance structures/institutions on board. In other words, the global

population is now ready to take matters on its own hand, without unduly relying on the politicians of the nation-states. Finally our cry has been heard, these are the kind of things we have been recommending ever since the failure of the Copenhagen summit.

(For more information visit www.capitalethiopia.com June 08, 2012)

Addis Ababa, The Reporter – An Indian tea farm in Gambella Regional State, Godere Wereda, Gumare Kebele where the investor took forest land, 3,012hc, with an initial agreement to develop tea; however, this company with its team were found in the production and transportation of timber. The zone police arrested the manager of the company and the timber produced on June 20, 2012.

(For more information visit www.ethiopianreporter.com June 27, 2012)

Addis to Monitor Air Pollution for 5m Br

The tender to be floated next fiscal year follows failed 1.7m Br attempt

Addis Ababa, Capital- The Ethiopian Meteorological Agency (EMA) is planning to establish an air pollution monitoring station to measure the air quality of Addis Ababa at a cost of five million Br. The station, which is to be constructed at the EMA's compound next to Black Lion Hospital, is expected to provide data that will help forecasters establish trends in the city's pollution data, up until now, but this will be an international standard station that can feed data directly to the concerned authorities." The station will have have

four sensors measuring carbon oxides, nitrogen oxides, tropospheric ozone, and particulate matter.

(For more information visit www.capitalethiopia.com June 17, 2012)

Cities unite on climate change

Addis Ababa, The Reporter – Twenty years after the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, last week the United Nations (UN) brought governments, international institutions and major groups together again in Brazil to dwell on sustainable development. As a member of the UN and the G77, Ethiopia was represented by an organization, C40, a coalition of cities against greenhouse gas emissions. The coalition brought together cities of extreme economic, social and political realities. And on top of that, they are faced with most politically challenging subjects in the world at present: mitigating climate change. The most important local action that the city council of Addis took so far was a tree-planting event. The idea behind is that forests play an important role in improving the urban environmental conditions and safeguarding biodiversity in the city. Trees can protect the city from flood and improve the quality of air. So trees can serve as a carbon sink to reduce pollution. In doing so, Addis Ababa took advantage of advice from botanists in London's Kew Gardens. It doesn't need advice only, but technical skill and financial resources to handle the problems. For the technical skill, they can count on advice from the Forum for Environment. This non-governmental and other non-profit making civil organization is concerned about the Ethiopian Environment. The institute has different programs and one

of the urban environments. One objective is to provide technical backing to urban authorities and dwellers. As the mayor of New York Michael Bloomberg said it in Rio, "Cities have recognized the responsibility to act. We haven't waited for our national governments to go first."

(For more information visit www.ethiopianreporter.com June 23, 2012)

International news

Pollutants May Contribute to Illness and Becoming Overweight

Science Daily (June 26, 2012): Lack of physical activity and poor diet alone cannot explain the dramatic rise in obesity and diabetes occurring in many countries, believe some researchers. It is time to face the possibility that hazardous chemicals may also share part of the blame. The population of the Western world is increasingly falling prey to metabolic syndrome, which is the name for a group of risk factors such as overweight and insulin resistance that occur together and increase the risk for coronary artery disease, stroke, and type-2 diabetes. Both genetics and environmental factors such as diet and physical exercise play a part, but researchers are still missing some key pieces to the puzzle. Many studies now indicate that persistent organic pollutants play a major role.

(For more information visit <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/06/120626092631.htm>)

Last Pinta giant tortoise Lonesome George dies

British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) - Staff at the Galapagos National Park in Ecuador say Lonesome George, a giant tortoise believed to be the last of its subspecies, has died. Scientists estimate he was about 100 years old. Park officials said they would carry out a post-mortem to determine the cause of his death. With no offspring and no known individuals from his subspecies left, Lonesome George became known as the rarest creature in the world. For decades, environmentalists unsuccessfully tried to get the Pinta Island tortoise to reproduce with females from a similar subspecies on the Galapagos Islands. Park officials said the tortoise was found dead in his corral by his keeper of 40 years, Fausto Llerena. While his exact age was not known, Lonesome George was estimated to be about 100, which made him a young adult as the subspecies can live up to an age of 200. Environmentalists had believed his subspecies (*Chelonoidis nigra abingdoni*) had become extinct. Lonesome George became part of the Galapagos National Park breeding programme. After 15 years of living with a female tortoise from the nearby Wolf volcano, Lonesome George did mate, but the eggs were infertile. He also shared his corral with female tortoises from Espanola island, which are genetically closer to him than those from Wolf volcano, but Lonesome George failed to mate with them. He became a symbol of the Galapagos Islands, which attract some 180,000 visitors a year.

(For more information visit <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-18574279>)

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