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From: Sam Kassegne <kassegne@.....>  
To: AynalemAdugna <AynalemAdugna@aol.com>  
Cc: Aynalem.Adugna <Aynalem.Adugna@dss.ca.gov>  
Sent: Sat, Aug 10, 2019 10:18 am

**Dear Professor Aynalem:**

First, as a way of introduction, my name is Samuel Kinde and I am a professor of mechanical engineering at San Diego State University here in San Diego, California.

I am contacting you regarding an important initiative we started a few months called, ETHIOPIA 2050, that is now gaining momentum and will have its first milestone this **December 2019** through a large conference that we are organizing in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The initiative is driven entirely by professions and professional organizations such as **Ethiopian Academy of Sciences (EAS), Ethiopian Economic Association, Ethiopian Association of Civil Engineers (EACE), Association of Ethiopian Architects (AEA), Ethiopian Society of Mechanical Engineers (ESME), Ethiopian Society of Chemical Engineers (ESChE), Ethiopian Society of Electrical Engineers (ESEE), and Ethiopian Urban Planners Association (EUPA)**, etc. The motivation is what we identified as the “**10 Most Pressing Grand Societal Challenges**” that we face as our population reaches the 190-200 million mark by 2050. We believe the scales of problems that we face in the thematic areas of food/energy/water, infrastructure capacity building, and economic development drivers are orders of magnitude larger than anything that we have seen so far.

We ask: what sort of bold and innovative technology solutions can be proposed to address these challenges? What is the role of technology in meeting these societal grand challenges? What sort of mechanisms are available for professionals to make an impactful contribution in these areas?

To answer these and similar questions and start a national dialogue in the country geared towards producing bold and pragmatic approaches, we are proposing an international conference for December 2019 to be followed by a report by a Blue Ribbon Panel (BRP).

Therefore, as a professional whose name was strongly recommended by the organizers and several other professionals in Addis Ababa who are familiar with your work in the broad areas of population that is very relevant to this conference, we would like to invite you as a keynote speaker. We believe that the ideas that you will share with the 500-strong national and international audience at ECA Hall in Addis for ETHIOPIA 2050 Conference will form a core of some of the strong ideas that will be the outcomes of this conference. These ideas will then be shared to the wider society and policy makers through the BRP Report. The follow-up is scheduled for 2022 where these ideas and how they have fared with the policy makers will be assessed. Along with other additional long-term sustainable objectives we are formulating, we think this initiative will make a real and impactful contribution.

These are useful links for further information.

<http://www.ethiopia2050.com>

[http://ethiopia2050.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Ethiopia\\_2050\\_GrandChallenges.pdf](http://ethiopia2050.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Ethiopia_2050_GrandChallenges.pdf)

**Tentative Dates:** December 19 - 20, 2019

**Venue:** UN-ECA Hall

I will follow this email with a phone conversation, if you prefer to learn more about this.

Professor Aynalem, I know you will have lots of questions and you are involved in similar initiatives; but we wanted to start this conversation through this formal invitation as speaker. We hope the time will also work out for you.

I look forward to hearing from you.

# ETHIOPIA 2050: Grand Challenges and Opportunities

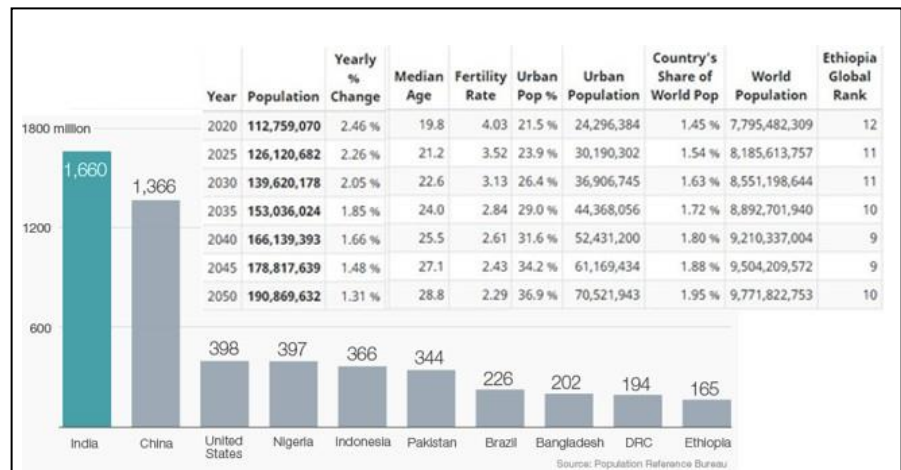
December 19-20, 2019



## Background

Over the last decade, Ethiopia has been recognized as one of the fastest growing economies in Africa by international financing institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). However, with the country’s population projected to reach almost 200 million by 2050, the scale of challenges that await the country in terms of providing basic and critical infrastructures in energy, water, food, housing, transportation, renewable resources, etc., are staggering. Unless proactive efforts in predicting these massive needs are carried out early and thoughtful plans to address these are prepared accordingly, it will be hard not only to eliminate poverty but also to avoid the threat of the accompanying highly destabilizing societal and environmental problems. Developing countries like Ethiopia are also exposed to other challenges of global dimension that are expected to have disproportionate adverse impact on these countries. This includes the adverse impact of climate change and the threat from the emerging disruptive technologies that are driving the transition to the Fourth Industrial Revolution (Industry 4.0).

On the other hand, however, as a country that is at the early stage of developing its infrastructure for economic development, Ethiopia also has huge opportunities to enter a more efficient and sustainable development trajectory through appropriate policy choice and planning processes. This would require making the best and smart use of available knowledge, technology and



techniques including smart utilization of the benefits from disruptive technologies. This has provided the basis for the organization of the international conference on ‘Ethiopia 2050: Grand challenges and opportunities’. The conference is organized by **Ethiopian Engineers in Diaspora** in

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association with Ethiopian Academy of Sciences, Ethiopian Association of Civil Engineers, Association of Ethiopian Architects, Ethiopian Society of Mechanical Engineers, Ethiopian Society of Chemical Engineers, Ethiopian Society of Electrical Engineers, and Ethiopian Urban Planners Association. The conference is expected to lead to a comprehensive report that highlights the key challenges and opportunities together with recommendations for decision-makers at all levels.

### Objective

The objective of this conference is to identify the key challenges and opportunities as a starting point for national conversation amongst policy-makers, political and economic leaders, professionals and various stake-holder and provide key pointers towards formulation of concrete and actionable sets of policies that could turn these challenges into opportunities.

### Expected outcome

The conference is expected to result in a comprehensive consensus document that outlines the key challenges and opportunities together with the major action points that could serve as a basis for all major decisions to be made by policy makers, planners, private sector



operators, and other stakeholders. The effectiveness of the conference will be measured through its impact in (a) influencing policy making in the years to come and (b) encouraging the subsequent launch of entrepreneurial, public, and government activities around the proposed solutions.

### Thematic focus

The following are the major indicative thematic areas that will be covered during the conference.

- **Enhancing basic services:** includes topics such as ensuring food security, access to health care, meeting energy demand, and access to clean and equitable water distribution.
- **Foundation infrastructure:** includes natural resources management, ICT infrastructure expansion, transport & communication infrastructure and STEM education and skill development.
- **Economic development drivers:** includes inclusive and sustainable industrialization, ICT-based innovation, and sustainable urban transition.

### Organization

The overall organization of the conference is coordinated by an international steering committee (ISC) consisting of representatives of the partner institutions and engineering societies. A Blue Ribbon Panel (BRP) composed of prominent scholars and experts on the respective themes and topics will be responsible for the preparation of the comprehensive report of the Conference.

### Call for partners

The International Steering Committee invites all relevant national institutions and development partners to join us in the organization of the conference on Ethiopia 2050.

*For more information on the conference, you may visit the conference website at [www.ethiopia2050.com](http://www.ethiopia2050.com) or contact Professor Sam Kassegne at [kassegne@sdsu.edu](mailto:kassegne@sdsu.edu).*



Web-site: <http://www.ethiopia2050.com> Email: [ChallengeEthiopia2050@Gmail.com](mailto:ChallengeEthiopia2050@Gmail.com)