

**LEE YI SHYAN MAKES AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO ETHIOPIA,  
2 TO 3 DECEMBER 2013**

Senior Minister of State for Trade & Industry, Mr Lee Yi Shyan will visit Ethiopia from 2 to 3 December 2013, to promote greater economic engagement and ties between Ethiopia and Singapore.

2 Bilateral exchanges between Singapore and Ethiopia have increased in the last year, with visits on both sides to explore potential areas for cooperation. The Ethiopian Senior State Minister of Industry, H.E. Tadesse Haile and the Ethiopian Ambassador, Seyoum Mesfin visited Singapore in 2012 and 2013, while the Singapore Business Federation led a business mission in 2012. Ethiopia is Singapore's 29<sup>th</sup> largest trading partner in Sub-Saharan Africa. Trade in 2012 was S\$12.8 million. Some key Singapore companies already in Ethiopia are Food Empire Holding, Comcraft and Olam International.

3 "With 93 million people, Ethiopia is the second most populous country in Africa. It also has one of the largest economies by GDP in Central and East Africa. While still mainly an agriculture economy, Ethiopia has in recent years opened its economy for foreign direct investments in manufacturing and services. In some recent interactions I have had with the ministers from Ethiopia, we were told that Ethiopia appreciated Singapore's development experience and wished to establish a stronger links with Singapore. With Ethiopian Airlines launching direct flight to Singapore on 3 Dec, I foresee we will get to know each other better. We can do more with each other in future," said Mr Lee. Both Mr Lee and the Ethiopian State Minister of Industry, H.E. Tadesse Haile will be on board the inaugural Ethiopian Airlines direct flight to Singapore, landing on 3 December 2013.

4 During the visit to Ethiopia, Mr Lee will be meeting with the Minister of Culture and Tourism, Amin Abdukadir, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Tedros Adhanom. This is Mr Lee's first visit to Ethiopia. This is a follow-up from the Ethiopian Senior State Minister of Industry's visit to Singapore in January 2013.

5 The Ethiopian Senior State Minister of Industry, H.E. Tadesse Haile, will also be visiting Singapore from 3 to 5 December 2013, together with a business delegation. Beyond exploring areas for cooperation and business opportunities, Mr Tadesse Haile will also be attending various cultural activities planned. Please refer to [Annex A](#) for more information on the business and cultural exchanges planned.

## **About Ethiopia**

Ethiopia is the second largest state in Sub-Saharan Africa, after Nigeria. Ethiopia's average GDP growth rate of 8% has been regarded as one of the highest on the continent, in spite of limited natural resources. Growth has continued to be broad-based with industry, services and agriculture growing by 13.6%, 111% and 5% respectively. Agriculture makes up the largest percentage of Ethiopia's GDP, at 46.4% in 2012 and 85% of employment.

The government has a five-year Growth and Transformation framework to promote the agricultural and industrial sectors as sources of growth and to expand infrastructure. Addis Ababa, Ethiopia's capital is increasing its air links to become an air hub in East Africa. This plan aims to achieve a projected GDP growth of 11-15% each year from 2010-2015.

**MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY**

**2 DECEMBER 2013**

**ANNEX A****ETHIOPIAN STATE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY VISIT TO SINGAPORE  
BUSINESS AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, 4-5 DECEMBER 2013**

<b>4 December 2013, Wednesday</b>		
<b>Date/ Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Point of Contact</b>
12.00pm to 1.00pm	Cultural Dance Exchange at Global Connect Village, Temasek Polytechnic	Amanda Kwek 98523832
2.30pm – 5.00pm	Ethiopia Business Forum at the Singapore Manufacturing Federation (SMF) , organised by SMF	Emmeline Lam, 96219202

<b>5 December 2013, Thursday</b>		
<b>Date/ Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Point of Contact</b>
12.00pm to 1.30pm	Cultural Dance Performance & Sharing session on Ethiopian coffee, at Global Connect Village, Temasek Polytechnic	Amanda Kwek 98523832
3.00pm to 5.00pm	Ethiopian Dance Master-class conducted by the Ethiopian dance troupe with dance students, at the Lasalle College of the Arts	Amanda Kwek 98523832
6.00pm to 8.00pm	Ethiopian Coffee Appreciation class at Toby's Estate	Amanda Kwek 98523832