



भारत का राजदूतावास, आदिस अबाबा

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Celebration of ITEC Day 2017

Addis Ababa, 11 December 2017: Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Day 2017 was celebrated on 1st December, 2017 in the Embassy. More than 170 ITEC alumni attended this event. The alumni included former Members of Parliament, Presidents of Universities, senior government officials, and businessmen. Dr. Berhane Meskel, President, Kotebe Metropolitan University and Mr. Mesfin Namarra Deressa were the Guests of Honour on this occasion.

On this occasion, ITEC alumni shared their fond memories and experiences of their training and stay in India. They recalled the cultural similarities experienced and warm friendships forged during their stay in India. They appreciated the efforts of the Government of India through the Embassy in organising this programme which had greatly supported the Ethiopian government in its capacity building efforts.

Ambassador Anurag Srivastava in his address on the occasion touched upon the historical background 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 highlighted various elements of capacity building support provided by India in the present in the form of ITEC programme and other trainings under the framework of India Africa Forum Summit for professionals. He also briefed the alumni on various opportunities being offered to students in the form of scholarships and fellowships. 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 join the Embassy in its efforts to further strengthen the alumni network in Ethiopia as well as enhance its activities.

Mr. Mesfin Namarra also spoke about the benefits of training under the ITEC programme to the Ethiopian trainees. He offered to work with the Embassy to strengthen the alumni network. A documentary "**Lessons in Friendship**" about the ITEC programme was also shown to the gathered alumni. On this occasion a Publication 'India-Ethiopia- 70 years of Diplomatic Relations' was also released by the Ambassador Srivastava and the Guests of Honour.

As a part of its capacity building cooperation, India launched its ITEC Programme in Ethiopia in 1969. Training is one of the major activities under ITEC and it has been very successful in Ethiopia. Professionals from Ethiopia have been attending training courses, both civilian and defence, in different centres of excellence in India which empower them for professional skills. This programme covers areas like agriculture, information technology, telecommunication, management, rural development, accounts, audit, banking, finance, health, environment and renewable energy.

In 2007-08, the number of training slots offered under ITEC was 25. There has been a steady increase since then. On account of decision taken during the India Africa Forum Summit-II, ITEC slots were enhanced to 135 for 2011-2012, 160 slots for 2012-13, 220 slots for 2013-14, 200 slots for 2015-16 and 250 slots for 2016-17. So far Embassy of India, Addis Ababa has sent about 2338 Ethiopian students under this programme. ITEC courses are much appreciated in Ethiopia. ITEC programme also provides for deputation of Indian experts.

11 December 2017