

## News Feature

### The Celebration of the New Millennium Gains Momentum

More than a month has already elapsed since Ethiopia started its third Millennium. There were music festivals organized at Bole, Janmeda and the Stadium on the eve of the Ethiopian New Year 2000 but there should not be confused with the actual starting of the celebration of the New Millennium. This came three months earlier with the implementation of the project "Two Trees for 2000" on June 5, 2007.

"Two Trees for 2000" is one of the national projects devised in connection with the celebration of the Millennium. It has the noble



objective of rejuvenating the country's badly depleted forest resources. According to available data so far about a billion indigenous tree seedlings have been planted. This is equivalent to the number of tree seedlings planned for plantation, world wide, by the UN to mark this year's World Environment Day which is also being celebrated by the planting of trees.

In fact, the celebration of Ethiopia's New Millennium is a year-long process which will continue unabated for the coming 15 months. A number of significant national projects will be carried out. All have been carefully devised and prepared by the New Ethiopian Millennium Celebration National Secretariat in order to provide value-added either for the realization of the country's peace, democracy and development building initiatives or the promotion of a positive image for the country.

Projects in the pipeline include among others symposiums, seminars and conferences on the country's politics and economics being organized inside country as well as abroad, to be led by well known scholars and specialists on Ethiopian history.

Trade and cultural exhibitions will be organized in various metropolitan cities by the relevant Ethiopian diplomatic missions, in collaboration with members of the Ethiopian community and friends of Ethiopia.

All this demonstrates that the celebration of the New Ethiopian Millennium has a more profound and deeper implications than the musical extravaganzas which some detractors would like us to believe is the aim of the millennium.