

## **Vietnam's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs visits Ethiopia**

The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Mr. Le Luong Minh, visited Ethiopia on Wednesday this week. He was welcomed by Ambassador Berhane Gebrechristos, State Minister of Foreign Affairs with whom he held talks to discuss the means of enhancing the bilateral relations existing between Ethiopia and Vietnam.

The State Minister noted that Ethiopia and Vietnam could share each others' experiences. He said that Ethiopia could learn a great deal from Vietnam particularly in the areas of improving agricultural productivity. There are many mutual benefits to be obtained by enhancing cooperation. The Vietnamese Deputy Minister expressed his hope that bilateral relations will be expanded and that cooperation in various areas will be deepened. He indicated that Vietnam is keen to develop its relations with Ethiopia and to share its experiences particularly in such areas as poverty reduction, agriculture and rural development, health and similar areas. He further proposed that the two countries could cooperate in improving trade and investment cooperation. The two sides expressed their willingness to diversify relations between them as well as work closely and cooperate in international fora in order to advance the interests of developing countries in the spirit of South-South cooperation.

The Vietnam Deputy Foreign Minister paid a courtesy call on Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hailemariam Desalegn, and exchanged views on bilateral and international issues of mutual concern. Mr. Le Luong Minh also met with senior officials from the Ministries of Agriculture, Information and Technology, Trade and Industry and the Chamber of Commerce to exchange views on ways and means of further enhancing the scope of trade and investment cooperation between the two countries. Ethiopia, he said, was clearly ready to further enhance mutually beneficial cooperation in trade and investment and expand bilateral relations.

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