



Celebration of the Ethiopian Millennium

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Let us celebrate The Ethiopian Millennium in the Sprit of Love and Unity!

CCEM Press Release

As the countdown to the Ethiopian millennium approaches, representatives of Ethiopian civic and political organizations as well as those from the Business community in the Washington DC area are organizing one of the most festive and reflective celebrations to mark this important historic event from September 7 to 12, 2007.

The council for the Celebration of the Ethiopian Millennium in Washington DC (CCEM) has reached out and invited various individuals, local and national government officials, and friends of Ethiopia to join our community in the celebration of this historic occasion. We have had the privilege of organizing a dinner party inside one of the Halls of US Congress, with the support of the Honorable Congressman Donald Payne, a true friend of Ethiopia and a champion of the cause of our people. We were able to raise a modest fund from the business community and individuals for the celebration and introduction of the Council's objectives.

The Honorable Adrian Fenty, the Mayor of Washington DC, was also gracious enough to declare September 12, (*Meskerem 1*) as "Ethiopian Millennium Day". Mayor Fenty, who thanked our community for being a wonderful addition to the multicultural beauty of the City of Washington DC, has also requested the residents of the city to join the Ethiopian community in celebrating this important historic date.

The Council for the Celebration of the Ethiopian Millennium in Washington DC has set out elaborate programs for the celebration which include the following:

On September 7, 2007, Ethiopian Information Technology (IT) professionals in the US will gather at the headquarters of the World Bank in Washington DC and connect with IT professionals in London and Addis Ababa to confer on the future of IT for Ethiopia. The discussion, which is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., will explore various opportunities and challenges for bringing Ethiopia into the information age and make her the beneficiary of this rapidly growing technology;

On September 8 and 9, 2007, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., on each day, scholars and professionals of diverse disciplines will present papers at a symposium to be held at Howard University,

Washington D.C.. The symposium would cover various issues on Ethiopia including history and culture, the arts and literature, politics and governance, economics and ecology, health and education;

On the evenings of September 8, a grand cultural show of Ethiopian music and dance will be featured at Stadium Armory in Washington DC. More than thirty Ethiopian prominent Artists from Ethiopia and Diaspora will participate in this grand Millennium Cultural and Musical show.

On September 10 and 11, we will be having an exhibition of Ethiopian arts and photography organized by the Ethiopian Artists. In the evenings, there will be film and theatre shows on Ethiopia.

On September 12, (Meskerem 1) Ethiopians will welcome their new year and their new millennium. Activities will include a parade called the "***March for Democracy***" that will start from the US Congress. The parade will celebrate our unity in diversity; express our determination to see Ethiopia as a united democratic country, free of oppression and poverty. Ethiopians will express their earnest desire and wish for Ethiopia where there is democracy, good governance, and rule of law and where the human rights of all Ethiopians are respected.

Ethiopians of all religions and ethnic backgrounds will join hands and demand that the new millennium should be one where human rights violations against our people will not be tolerated anymore. On this parade, African Americans, Jamaicans and Africans from other African countries and all friends of Ethiopia will join us. The Jamaican friends will have special performance for the occasion.

On September 12, (Meskerem 1), after the completion of the parade, starting from the late afternoon, Ethiopians will gather at the west side of the Potomac River by the Washington Monument for an evening of festivities, cultural and musical show.

The Council for the Celebration of the Ethiopian Millennium (CCEM) is committed to make the millennium celebration the most memorable. We call on all Ethiopians and friends of Ethiopia in the USA and elsewhere to join us to celebrate the passing of the old and Ethiopian Millennium the beginning of the new as an occasion for renewed hope and optimism for the progress of Ethiopia and Ethiopians. Let us celebrate together this great milestone and unique moment in our country's age and transition to a new century and a new millennium with confidence and hope, to build a better future.

The Council for the Celebration of Ethiopian Millennium, Washington DC

August 13,