



His Excellency

Zerihun Retta Shumye

Consul General of the
Federal Democratic Republic
of Ethiopia in Los Angeles.

Ambassador Zerihun Retta Shumye is the current Consul General of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia in Los Angeles. Prior to this post, Ambassador Retta served as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ethiopia to Ireland for 4 and 1/2 years. During his term in Ireland, he worked to strengthen the development partnership between Ireland and Ethiopia.

Ambassador Retta held many positions in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia. He worked for more than 15 years as Director General for Administration and Finance and head of Audit Inspection in the Ministry of foreign of Ethiopia. As Director General for Administration and Finance General Directorate, he was responsible for coordinating and managing the human and financial recourses of the Ministry and Embassies and Consulates worldwide.

He represented Ethiopia during the 52nd Session of the United States General Assembly meeting.

Ambassador Retta has also served for four years as a board member of the Amhara Development Association (ADA), an organization established to support the development endeavors of the Amhara people of Ethiopia. Prior to joining the Foreign Service, Ambassador Retta worked in different companies and organizations as accountant and administrator. He led the accounting departments of various mining companies.

Ambassador Retta received his Bachelor's Degree in Accounting and his Executive Master of Business Administration from Dublin City University, Ireland. He currently serves as a member of the Pacific Council Consular Advisory Board and Dean of the Los Angeles Diplomatic Core.

"Ethiopia is one of the fastest growing economies in the world; it now has the largest economy by GDP in East and Central Africa. Ambassador Retta will offer his insights into 'the Path from Poverty to Economic Boom and Reflections on Regional Stability and Economic Integration.' Our students will benefit greatly from our guest's expertise."

**Associate Vice President
for UVU International
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Rusty Butler

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WHO WE ARE

The Office of International Affairs & Diplomacy actively supports UVU's global engagement efforts by advancing UVU's presence and prestige in the International community; helping UVU students become globally competent graduates; promoting cultural literacy and diversity both on campus and in the community.

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INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT

Ethiopia

THE FLAG OF Ethiopia



MEANING

Three equal horizontal bands of green (top), yellow, and red, with a yellow pentagram and single yellow rays emanating from the angles between the points on a light blue disk centered on the three bands; green represents hope and the fertility of the land, yellow symbolizes justice and harmony, while red stands for sacrifice and heroism in the defense of the land; the blue of the disk symbolizes peace and the pentagram represents the unity and equality of the nationalities and peoples of Ethiopia.

Ethiopia is the oldest independent country in Africa, and the three main colors of her flag (adopted ca. 1895) were so often adopted by other African countries upon independence that they became known as the Pan-African colors; the emblem in the center of the current flag was added in 1996.

Information gathered from: World-factbook, wikipedia.com, ethiovisit.com, awazetours.com.

- With a total area of 1,104,300 sq km, Ethiopia is as large as France and Spain combined
- Ethiopia derived prestige for its uniquely successful military resistance during the late 19th-century Scramble for Africa, according to Global Fire Power, Ethiopia also has the 46th most powerful military in the world.
- Considered the most populous landlocked country in the world, Ethiopia is also the second-most populated nation on the African continent.
- Ethiopia is one of the founding members of the UN, with Addis Ababa serving as the headquarters of the African Union.
- Amharic is the official language of Ethiopia, although English, Italian, French, and Arabic are widely spoken
- Ethiopia has the largest economy by GDP in East Africa and Central Africa.
- The main source of the Nile, the longest river on earth, is in Ethiopia.
- The town of Lalibela is one of the most worthwhile attractions and holiest places in Ethiopia. Its 11 rock-hewn churches symbolically represent Jerusalem and can be dated to the end of the 12th century, after the capture of Jerusalem by Salah Ad-Din from the European crusaders.



- Wat is the Ethiopian national dish. it is a hot spicy stew, which is served with injera (traditional flatbread). There are many varieties of Wat, chicken, beef, lamb, vegetable, lentil.



- Ethiopia is where Coffea arabica, the coffee plant, originates; around 60% of foreign income comes from coffee, with an estimated 15 million of the population relying on some aspect of coffee production for their livelihood.
- Meskel, one of the major Ethiopian Orthodox festivals, is celebrated for two days September 26-27. The feast commemorates the discovery of the cross upon which Jesus was crucified.
- About 62% of the population adhere to Christianity, which is Ethiopia's main religion.