



## Headline News

### **Westminster Africa Business Group member Professor John Struthers appointed Honorary Consul for Ethiopia in Scotland.**

Professor John Struthers, a long standing member of the Westminster Africa Business Group, has been appointed as Honorary Consul for Ethiopia in Scotland. This is both a great honour for John and fantastic news for the WABG.



John's role as Honorary Consul will be to assist Ethiopia to increase its trade and investment links with Scotland, to encourage educational and cultural exchanges; and to assist the London based Ethiopian Ambassador to interact with the Scottish Government, civic society, and the business community.

The appointment is the result of Professor Struthers on-going research relating to Ethiopia which he conducts with other colleagues at the University of West Scotland, in the economics of commodity price volatility, and in particular commodities such as coffee- one of the country's major exports. However he also commended the role that the Westminster Africa Business Group played in his selection. Speaking after his appointment he said, "It is an exciting and interesting role for me, which I believe has come about in part through my involvement in WABG, as well as my own research on the commodity sectors within Ethiopia. I would like to thank the Group for introducing me to the Ethiopian Embassy and Ambassador Kebede in London. Although, there will be a focus on Scottish-Ethiopia links, I will be keen to work with colleagues across all of the UK and of course with our fellow members of WABG and with Laurence at the UK parliamentary level".

Chairman of the Westminster Africa Business Group Laurence Robertson, who also chairs the All Party Parliamentary Group on Ethiopia, said "I am very pleased to hear of John's much -deserved appointment. Relations between the UK and Ethiopia are excellent, and anything such as this which builds on that relationship is to be welcomed. Scotland is, of course, very much a part of the UK and is entitled to enjoy the results of our excellent relationship with Ethiopia. John is just the man to help bring this about".



Professor John Struthers of the University of West of Scotland's School of Business and Enterprise said: "it is indeed a great honour and privilege for me to be appointed as Honorary Consul for Ethiopia in Scotland".

As an economist, Professor Struthers is especially keen to highlight the major strides that the Ethiopian economy has made over recent decades with its' recent high level of economic growth and major infrastructural improvements. These include; the huge Renaissance Dam project around the Nile waters; the recently launched Addis Ababa light railway; and the major expansion in the country's road and rail network aimed at improving transport links between Ethiopia and Djibouti, and its major port. In addition, the country has recently witnessed massive expansion in the number of new universities. These developments, along with the huge potential that Ethiopia has in the area of cultural and religious tourism, means that this is a particularly important period for the country.

Professor Struthers adds: "given my economics background and contacts within the business community in Scotland such as with the Chambers of Commerce and the Scottish Council for Development and Industry, I look forward to playing my part, along with the Ambassador and colleagues in the London Embassy, in forging links between our two countries".