

PRESS RELEASE



Ethiopian Airlines Appoints New CEO

Ato Girma Wake to Retire After Leading Airline Through Unprecedented Growth

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia – September 15, 2010 –Ethiopian Airlines today announced the appointment of Ato Tewolde G. Mariam as CEO – Designate of Ethiopian Airlines effective September 15, 2010. Ato Tewolde will succeed Ato Girma Wake as CEO effective January 01, 2011.

Ato Tewolde has served Ethiopian for the last 25 years in different capacities in the Marketing Division at the head office and at different area offices including India, Saudi Arabia and the U.S.A. He also has served the airline as Executive Officer of the Marketing and Sales Division. Prior to his appointment as CEO Designate, he has been serving as the Chief Operating Officer of Ethiopian, successfully steering the operations of the airline during a period of an unprecedented and profitable growth.

Ato Girma Wake served as Chief Executive Officer of Ethiopian Airlines since February 2004, leading the airline through one of the most ambitious growth periods in its history. Most notably with the implementation of Vision 2010, Ethiopian was ranked the 16th most profitable airline in the world.

“Today the airline has embarked upon a new direction by stretching its previous growth strategy,” said H.E. Ato Seyoum, Chairman of the Board of Management for Ethiopian Airlines. “As a result, Vision 2025 – the 15-year strategic road map for the growth of the airline – has been laid out and the airline is on the first year of its implementation. The Management Board has noted that when Ato Girma retires, it should appoint a successor capable of continuing implementing this strategic direction to make Ethiopian the foremost Aviation Group in Africa and to continue contributing to the socio-economic development of Ethiopia. Since Ato Girma has been serving Ethiopian for the last 37 years, the time has now come for his retirement and accordingly, Ato Tewolde G. Mariam has been appointed as the CEO – Designate of Ethiopian Airlines until December 31, 2010, after which period of time he will assume the responsibility of the Chief Executive Officer of Ethiopian Airlines.”

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Ato Tewolde graduated from the Addis Ababa University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics. He has also earned a masters degree in Business Administration (MBA) from the Open University, UK. Ato Tewolde is married and father of three boys and one girl.

About Ethiopian Airlines

Ethiopian Airlines, one of the largest and fastest growing airlines in Africa, made its maiden flight to Cairo in 1946. With the recent addition of flight services to Pointe Noire, Ethiopian provides dependable services to 39 cities in Africa and a total of 59 international destinations spanning throughout four continents. Ethiopian won the NEPAD Transport Infrastructure Excellence Awards 2009 on November 25, 2009 and "Airline of the Year" award from the African Airlines Association (AFRAA) on November 24, 2009, bringing the total Awards honored since January 2009 to five.

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