

NATIONAL DAY OF THE STATE OF ERITREA IN AICHI EXPO 2005 – JAPAN

June 10, 2005

(March 25, 2005 – September 25, 2005)

Background

The State of Eritrea is one of the countries that accepted Japan's invitation and support to participate in the 2005 World Exhibition.

“Visit a new nation being built” is the theme of the participation of the State of Eritrea in the African Pavilion of EXPO 2005.

Eritrea's theme, will articulate the dynamism, challenges and responsible practices that are being introduced in the country to protect the environment in the face of the speedy economic changes being introduced to benefit the people.

As a link between the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean and a passage between north-east Africa and south-west Asia, a trading route between several worlds, Eritrea has been a cross road of many civilizations in the past. It is straddling 1000 km of the Red Sea with an area 125,000 square kilometers of land which borders with Sudan in the west, Ethiopia in the south and Djibouti in the south-east.

Theme

With-in the humble slot of time and stand allocated for Eritrea in the African Pavilion, the theme of Eritrea will detail and create a wonderful opportunity for the country to share its story with the visitors from around the world on the following three conceptual spheres:

The first sphere will be expressing as part of the global initiatives for balanced eco-system by portraying programs to let the visitors see how this new nation is embarking on the task of safe-guarding the treasure chest of marine life that exists under its rich coastal waters and 360 off-shore islands of the Red Sea; and the plant, mammal, reptile and bird life in the country.

The second sphere will be articulating through different programs the harmonious culture that exists in the country for centuries. Musicians and Artists will take part depicting Semitic, Hamitic, Cushitic and Nilotic traditions of the people of Eritrea to add into the multinational diversity and experiences of the different people coming to visit this exhibition.

The third sphere will be of course to Promote Eritrea under the theme and open a window of opportunity and information exchange with visitors in the area of tourism, fisheries, natural resources and industries of the country.

Events

Human Origin

Encounter Signora Buia

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Dandiero (Buia) Basin (Danakil Depression, Eritrea) has preserved a rich paleontological and archeological record circa one million years old. Fieldwork undertaken between 1995 and 2003 led to the many collection of fossil remains now stored at the National Museum of Eritrea.

Depicting a step towards human origin, the **Buia homo—one million years ago- skull** will be shown in the stand of the State of Eritrea by the National Museum.

The Ministry of Tourism will also present social and **cultural heritage of the country** to visitors by displaying artifacts, video clips and posters.

Art

National Day Week

The Eritrean Artist who won many prizes including Raymok Award (2002), the highest national prize given annually to artists in Eritrea, Mr. Michael Adonai will display his work like: “Healing the Earth” (110x170 cm acrylic on canvas), “Metera’s Legacy” (56x78cm acrylic on canvas), “The Spirit of Drums” (91x122 cm oil on canvas), “The Trauma of Africa” 2001 (110x170cm acrylic on canvas), “Under the Spell of Modernity” (56x76cm acrylic on paper), “An Old Bicycle”2002 (50x70cm oil on canvas), “Peace” 1992 (54x73 cm acrylic on paper), “The Mystical Holiday”2005 (54x74cm pastel on paper), “Cross Road” 2005 (54x74cm pastel on paper), “Master of Grace” 2000 (56x76cm water color). He has presented several solo and group exhibitions in Eritrea, UN, Europe, East and South Africa, USA, Middle East and Singapore in the past.

The National Day

(June 10, 2005)

The National Folkloric Troupe of Eritrea called Sibrit will present traditional music and dance during the National Day of Eritrea to be observed in the EXPO Hall and the African Pavilion.

June 10 – June 15

The Cultural Group called Sebrit, directed by Mr. Kahsay Ghebrehiwet, Ms. Dehab Faid Tinga (singer), Ms. Lashe Manatai Lomi (dancer/singer), Mr. Ahmed Ibrahim Mahmoud (dancer), Mr. Melekin Ibrahim Mahmoud (singer), Mr. Abdelwasie Abdu Issa (musician); Ms. Lia Bairu Tesfazghi (Dancer/Singer), Mr. Mountesin Adem Mohamed (drums), Mr. Mahmoud Mussa Bekit (dancer); Mr. Hassen Suleiman Ahmed (Musician); Mr. Mr. Yacob Mohamed Sherif (dancer); Ms. Letebrhan Tesfamariam Temno (dancer); Ms. Adengo Kini Jemal (dancer/singer) and Mohamed Druf Ali Saeed (singer)

will perform :

“Tkririe”

Celebrating Harvest

(Kunama people)

(3 minutes)

“Amachu”

Love dance
(Kunama people)

(3:30 minutes)

“Keskes and Shelil”

(4:30 minutes)

Celebrating Harvest
(Tigre People)

(4:30 minutes)

“Traditional Music”

(2:00 minutes)

“Eyosa”

Celebrating Love
(Kunama people)

(4:00 minutes)

“Euleda”

Farwell dance to the diseased
(Kunama people)

(3 minutes)

Environmental Protection of the Red Sea

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The Ministry of Fisheries of the State of Eritrea will present activities undertaken to protect coastal, marine and the islands of the Red Sea. The only sea in the world without a single year round natural input of fresh water. The stand will have two medium sized aquariums of ornamental fish from the Red Sea.

An audio visual display will be shown about

Manzanar Project.

Driven by a long-standing desire for justice, a *Japanese*-American biologist Dr. Gordon Sato is spending his retirement helping some of the world's poorest people and the eco-system in Eritrea through this project.

The Ministry of Energy and Mines will also display an outcome of local research and training, a model of

An Improved Traditional Stove

and its socio-economic and environmental benefits.

Made In Eritrea

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Artisan works of cotton weaving, leather, gold, silver, bronze, stone, sea shells as well as some industrial products will be displayed in the stand to help in sharing and exchanging information on human and natural resources of Eritrea with visitors.

**ERITREA-UNCONVENTIONAL AFRICAN
WELCOME**