



## Ethiopia

### Power Sector

The Ethiopian Electric Power Corporation (EEPCO) launched its 650 million birr (US\$ 75 million) Urban Distribution, Rehabilitation and Expansion Project during its stakeholders meeting held on March 15, 2007 at the Addis Ababa Hilton. The latest project unveiled by the Corporation includes laying of 200 km of underground lines in the capital. The project, financed by the World Bank and the Ethiopian Government, will enable the country to join the world-class distribution system putting utility lines on one layer. The two-phase consultancy aspect of the project is being handled by the Swedish Engineering and Consulting Company (SWECO), which is also undertaking the engineering, services and hard and software supplies, at a cost of ETB 21 million (US\$ 2.5 million). The project would be completed by mid 2009. Ethiopia has the biggest hydropower potential in Africa but only little more than 15 per cent of the population has access to electricity. The Corporation has set a five-year plan to increase that number to 50 per cent.

The African Development Fund (ADF) has also provided US\$ 134 million in loans for the Ethiopian Government's Rural Electrification Project-II. With EEPCO as the executing body of the project, it plans to extend the national electricity grid to supply electricity to 335 rural towns and villages and improve the national electricity access rate from 17 per cent in 2006 to 20 per cent by 2011. The project comprises of the construction of 132 kV high voltage lines, construction of 132/33 kV substations, development of Medium and Low Voltage Network, installation of distribution transformers to connect 335 rural towns and villages in different parts of the country.

*(Source : Embassy of India, Addis Ababa)*