

English translation:

Okay, my name is Emiru Woldeyes. I am fifty-eight years old. The work that I am involved with now, for the most part, involves tourism and a travel agency. I've been in this field for about fifteen years total. Before that, I did some trade-promotion jobs for about seven or eight years. And before that, I worked for various government agencies in public enterprise management, and that was for about fifteen years; so most of my life has been spent in the world of work. The subject that we've chosen to discuss today is tourism, sightseeing work in Ethiopia, and the stage that Ethiopia has reached in this industry. After this, we'll go into the discussion if there are any questions.

As far as I can remember, it was in the time of Emperor Haile Selassie that tourism truly began to develop, which I remember. Although the organizations and tour operators were mostly small-scale, the model that existed at that time was very strong and well organized. I remember that there was one called United Touring Company. At that time, even the car rental company, Avis, had a branch here. A lot of foreigners came; they were the ones that led most of the work. The people that worked under them were very professional and well-trained. There are some of these people that are still around today that I know.

But after that---well, Ethiopia in those times, even if it didn't have the added natural attractions of today, the ones that were around in those times were maintained in their natural state, they were unsullied; it was a time when tradition was properly followed. And the attractions didn't have many people and they were very enjoyable. And then the *Dergue*¹ came when the revolution occurred in '74, in the Western system of counting years, the number of tourists decreased because of politics. For various logistical reasons caused by politics, tourists wouldn't come. In addition, the maintenance of tourist attractions and destinations dwindled; no one took care of them. Everything was in an anarchic state, so tourism gradually died, and tradition and respect began to fade also. So the tourism industry overall went down and became progressively weaker.

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¹ Socialist government.