

Aviation big names to convene in Addis

By Eskedar Kifle

A new kind of international meeting focusing on the aviation industry is set to take place the coming September in Addis Ababa a representative of the conference organizers Advanced Business Events (ABE) and BCI Aerospace has said on Thursday February 12, 2015.

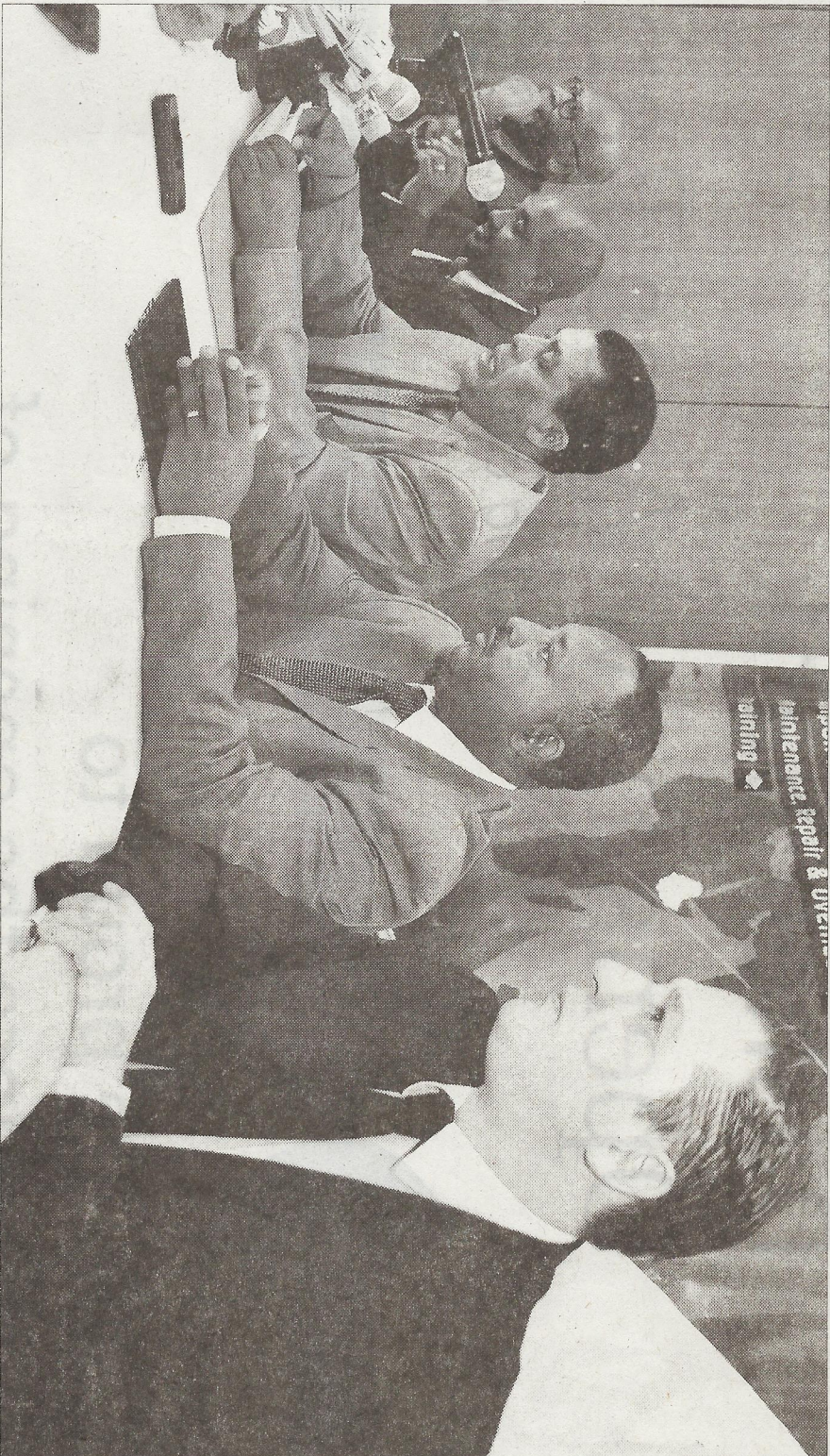
At a press conference held at the Hilton Hotel, it was announced that the upcoming Airport Infrastructures and MRO Aviation (AIMA) Meeting is scheduled to be held from 22 to 24 September 2015.

The meeting will bring together big names in the aviation sector for the conference and business to business sessions. "Boeing, Airbus, and Paris Airports are some of the big names that will be participating in the event, so it is a big deal," said Stephane Castet, CEO of BCI Aerospace.

The event will mainly focus on airport infrastructure development, aircraft maintenance, and provision of airplane repair training.

"The upcoming event will be an opportunity to attract new companies, new investments and more interest in the maintenance services Ethiopian Airlines provides. It will also be an opportunity to help Addis Ababa to become a dedicated hub for aircraft maintenance for all African airlines. It would be cost effective than going to other regions such as Europe, it really is a strategic market," Castet says.

The Airport Infrastructures and MRO Aviation Meeting is deemed to be held every two years in



(1) Hailu G/Mariam, Hailey G/Tsadik, Amb. Dina Mufti, Retta Melaku and Stephane Castet

The upcoming event will

be an opportunity to

attract new companies,

new investments and

more interest in the

maintenance services

Ethiopian Airlines provides

Ethiopia according to Castet. The inaugural session that would be held in September is expected to attract 200 delegates.

Castet says that previous events organized by ABE have been very successful and a similar outcome is expected from the coming conference as well.

"We have been successful in organizing such conferences. We always have a second edition of the

conferences we organize and for me that is proof that the events are successful," he said.

Castet also stated that ABE is currently looking into opening an office in Addis Ababa, which will be the company's second office in Africa.

"We have many offices around the world, and we want to expand our business in Africa. We have an office in Morocco, but Morocco

is really in between Africa and Europe. Addis Ababa will be our choice to open another office and from there we'll expand to other countries in Africa," Castet told Capital.

According to him, after opening their office in Addis Ababa, the events organizing company plans to venture into organizing conferences not only for the aerospace industry, but for other sectors as well. ■