



Addis Ababa, December 15, 2012 (WIC) - The Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the six-month official celebrations of the 50th Golden Jubilee of the African Union would be launched as of January, 2013.

The ministry briefed ambassadors and representatives of various African countries on Thursday about the celebrations.

Chief advisor to the ministry and Chairperson of the National Organizing Committee, Professor Mekonen Hadis told reporters that the celebrations would be accompanied by various assortments.

He said the celebrations would include deliberation on the contribution the then Organization of African Union (OAU) and the current African Union (AU) to the continent over the past 50 years.

He said international fashion show led by renowned Ethiopian, and football match among various African countries would also be parts of the celebrations.

Professor Mekonen said international media including BBC and CNN have shown interest to host international forums in the connection with the celebrations.

The 50th anniversary has a special significance to Ethiopia not only as host country of the AU Commission but also being the pioneer in the struggle to get rid of colonialism from the African continent, he said.