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## Education and Education Policy in Ethiopia

By Netsanet Gebre-Mariam

Education has been highly politicised over the past three Ethiopian regimes, with schools promoting government ideology but also providing a home for political unrest. Current EPRDF education policy reflects the ethnically based federal government arrangement. The EPRDF is a coalition of regional, ethnic political parties. Since the take over of government by the EPRDF changes were not limited to shaping the existing map of the country, but also the entire socio-economic and political structure of the country, not least the educational structure.

The following area are the major focus of the new education policy.

- A. Universal primary education, the expansion of the overall educational system with particular emphasis on attainment basic education for all.
- B. Emphasis on civic education, to bring up citizens who respect human right, equality, justice, and peace, endowed with a democratic culture and discipline.
- C. Focus on skill formation.
- D. Language of instruction, the right of nation and rationality to be educated in their language.
- E. Orientation to development, making education as means to develop traditional technology and a mechanism of introducing modern technology to the country.

The government has also encouraged the involvement of the private sector in education (previously private educational

institutions were not permitted). These government actions were intended to upgrade the education system and in some aspects it achieved certain results. For example, various primary schools were constructed, curriculum has been upgraded, administrative structures has been decentralised in some aspects. But even though efforts have been put to modernise the education system there are some and major factors to be dealt with.

Since 1991 the government has introduced a policy of decentralisation so that educational planning – curriculum reforms and management have been regionalised. As noted by the Ethiopian Economic Association (EEA) (2000), previous policy failures in education have also come partly from failure 'to distinguish between regional, cultural and linguistic diversities'. The EPRDF responded by introducing teaching in different languages in most parts of corresponding regions: Amharic, Afaan Oromo, Somali, Tigrinya and to a lesser extent Sidama, Afar and Wolaita. The new education policy is designed to overcome this particular problem, in line with the EPRDF's focus on regional self-determination, but in the short term at least it is disadvantaging people further in some regions. Books and other teaching materials are mostly in Amharic, and even those are limited and outdated. There is a lack of qualified teachers in a regional language, but also in particular a low level of English language training is the problem because

almost every subject is taught in English from grade seven onward.

However, Other factors suggest that the new policy is not the only problem but rather many years of underinvestment and neglect. There is overall low enrolment in spite of the government objective of universal primary education. In rural areas this is partly because the beginning of the school year in September is the time of intensive farming and parents prefer their children to help them in the farm than going to school. In both rural and urban areas families have financial problems in different forms like uniforms and educational fee which has been increasing from time to time. People also struggle to afford basic materials like pen and exercise book. Children may be more productive staying at home working for their family or in urban areas in other jobs. These problems are partly the cause of a high dropout and repeating of years, and a high national illiteracy - estimated less than 25% of the population are literate. This very high illiteracy reflects the overall lack of schools themselves across the country.

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Road to nowhere?

For people who manage to go to school the result is often disappointing. People are

unemployed – because there is a simple lack of opportunities in industry and services; and unemployable – because the quality of education is low, and in some areas getting lower due to lack of qualified teachers and appropriate resources for regional-language education.

The previous government was obliged to give graduates positions: mostly in different government offices. The new economic policy of private and external investment has not provided enough alternatives for graduates in recent years. As a result the lack of employment opportunity discourages people from studying: No need to waste time. Clearly there cannot be successful educational reform without successful economic change. Perhaps the government should look more carefully at the potential for informal education – perhaps with a more vocational focus from an earlier age. Such projects for vocational training have been so far the responsibility and initiative of NGOs rather than government. But there is the same problem with these projects if there is still a lack of employment opportunities at the end of training.

#### Military and politics in education

Another factor stopping people from getting educated is more overtly political: the presence of EPRDF soldiers in regional schools, and also the presence of government supporters as a divisive factor (may be ready to report people for criticising the government). The EEA claims that 'interventions by local governments and political cadres in the administration and management of education are rampant'. The extreme result is that there have been many violent clashes in educational institutions in recent years (though only those in Addis Ababa are widely reported). But the more general consequence is the disruption of education and intimidation of students and staff who may be afraid or forbidden to go to school.

A recent phenomenon showing the usual interference of government soldiers was the initially peaceful demonstration of Addis Ababa University students in 2001. The demonstration was only the act of demanding an

independent association and independent student news paper. But it was seen as the act of anti-government demonstration motivated by anti government elements. The demonstration and the police act resulted in death of students, injuries and imprisonment.

Political disturbance is both a symptom and a cause of educational disruption and bad management. The government has to change educational infrastructure but also ideology. Education should be restricted to educational process not as ideological influence. For example encouraging ethnic self-determination and rights to education in different languages should not be placed before practical problems and ideology cannot be more important than quality of education. Educational policy interacts with other government policies like land: there is competition between education and other business establishments for land lease. School fees must be minimised or subsidised, until other socio-economic policies and change allow people to afford it. Private investment can relieve pressure on public education service which is inadequate by itself, but the public sector must not be undermined by this. This may mean public teachers and lecturers need salary increases to prevent the draw of teachers into the private sector and abroad.

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## Education in Ethiopia: The Addis Ababa University

#### **By Desale Mitiku (student)**

Emperor Haile Selassie founded Addis Ababa University in 1950 to promote the higher educational institutions in the country, which was limited to high school only, before that. It was formerly known as Haile Selassie I

University, and has its present name after the Derg regime came to power, in 1974. Modern education started during the time of emperor Menelik II and the first school to be opened during that time was Menelik II High School, established in 1910. The present Addis Ababa University is the leading higher institution and center of big scientific studies in the country. It has been the source of many intellectual for the last 50 years, in different fields of studies, which now are positioned in different higher posts with in and outside the country.

- Faculties: Business and Economics, Medicine, Science, Technology, Veterinary Medicine
- Institute of Language Studies
- School of Information Studies for Africa
- School of Pharmacy

#### Continuing Education For Adults

(Education in the evening and in summer): Aside from the regular daytime academic programs given above, Addis Ababa University runs training in the evening as well as in summer. The University awards diplomas and first degrees in many fields of study except in Human- and Veterinary Medicine and few others.

The Distance Education Programme -Collaborative Capacity Building Programs-leading to Masters of Education in Curriculum and Instruction; Masters of Education in Educational Management and Planning

#### Research Institutes, Observatory and Publications

Institute of Development Research (founded in 1972); Inst. of Educational Research (founded in 1984); Inst. of Ethiopian Studies (founded in 1963); Inst. of Patho-biology (founded in 1967); Geophysical Observatory (founded in 1957). Research activities are co-ordinated by the research and publications office. The Addis Ababa university press is responsible for the publication of books, monographs and the like.

#### Academic Calendar

The Regular Programs: First semester Mid-September to Mid-February; Second Semester Mid-February to Mid-July. Between

### Figures About Staff And Students - Full time academic staff in the 2000/2001 academic year

	Ethiopians	Expatriates	Total
Professors	21	17	38
Associate Professors	118	13	131
Assistant Professors	201	11	212
Lecturers	310	3	313
Assistant Lecturers	78	-	78
Graduate Assistants	35	-	35
<b>Total</b>	<b>763</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>807</b>

### Ethiopian students Enrolment in the First Semester Academic Year 2000/2001

	Female	Male	Total
Undergraduate (Regular)	1714	8272	9986
Postgraduate Extension (Evening)	58	764	822
Extension (Evening)	2263	6111	8374
Extension (Kiremt/Summer)	<u>120</u>	<u>1609</u>	<u>1729</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>4155</b>	<b>16756</b>	<b>20911</b>

the first and second semester there is a two week break, and between the second and the first a break of about 8-9 weeks.

P.S The number of students now in the campus are quite few because the university is closed for us until the coming March as a punishment from the government. Now there are only fresh man students.

Libraries: There are libraries in all 8 campuses of the University. The Central Library is called the Kennedy Memorial Library, and it is located in the Main Campus. The total holding of the libraries are 304,228 volumes out of which 29,161 volumes are publications from 1988 to 1998.

#### On-going University Research Agreements & Collaborations With Foreign Universities

University of Osnabrück, Regensburg, Leipzig, Mainz (Germany), University College Dublin (Ireland), Oslo University (Norway), University of Bern (Switzerland), University of Edinburgh, Sussex University, St. Cross College, London School of Economics (UK), University of Michigan State, Antioch, Brown, Washington, Maryland (USA).

## Higher Education and Internet

The International Comparative Higher Education Finance and Accessibility Project is a 3 year, Ford Foundation-financed project to study the worldwide shift in the burden of higher education costs from governments and taxpayers to parents and students. The project is directed by D. Bruce Johnstone, University Professor of Higher and Comparative Education at the State University of New York at Buffalo, and is operated through the Graduate School of Education's Center for Comparative and Global Studies in Education.

#### **A Brief Description of the Higher Education System in Ethiopia (Excerpts)**

The first higher education institution in Ethiopia, the University College of Addis Ababa, was established in 1950. In spite of the country's need to expand the higher education sector, little progress was made in the subsequent 50 years. Until 1995, for example, there were only two public universities and sixteen affiliated and independent junior colleges in the country. Recently, following the government's decentralization effort to expand the higher education system in regional states, four more universi-

ties were added increasing the total number of universities to six. The universities are: Addis Ababa University, Alemaya University, Bahir Dar University, Mekele University, Jimma University and Debub University. Among these, Addis Ababa University is the leviation as it accounts for about 42 percent of the regular and 39 percent of the continuing education enrollment (MOE, 1998).

Included among post secondary establishments are also fourteen teacher-training institutions with an average enrollment of 55 students each. These institutions are responsible for training prospective teachers for first cycle primary education (grades 1 through 4) for the duration of one year. The higher education system also includes post secondary professional training institutes, such as the nursing school, bank and insurance institute and the Ethiopian Airlines Pilots and technicians training centers. The total enrolment of all of these is below 1,000 (Habtamu, 2000).

Since 1998, five private colleges have been created offering programs for a two-year diploma (Zewdu, 2000). In the 1999/2000 academic year, 8,376 students were enrolled in private colleges, accounting for 12.4 percent of total enrollment in higher education (MOE, 2000). Some of the private colleges have started programs for a bachelor's degree,

with the hope that they will secure accreditation eventually.

The total number of students in regular degree programs increased from 9,367 in 1994/95 to 19,957 in 1998/99 and in regular diploma programs from 5,881 to 6,524 in the same period. Despite these increases, it has been estimated that the gross enrollment ratio in higher education in the years 1995/96 - 1999/2000 falls between 1.0 and 0.5 percent with significant gender disparities (MOE, 2000).

While a new policy calls for admission to higher education on the basis of entrance examinations held by individual higher education institutions, students continue to be selected and assigned a university on the basis of the Ethiopian school leaving certificate examination (ESCLCE), which is offered at the completion of grade twelve. In principle, applicants are expected to have over 2.0 GPA in ESCLE in 5 subjects (including English and Math) to qualify for admission into higher education. In practice, however, the GPA cut off point is determined by the space available and the number of applicants each academic year. As a result, access is reserved to the exceptionally few high achievers who represent less than one-fifth of eligible candidates. In addition, the odds are that students from well-organized public or private secondary schools in metropolitan areas have the highest chance of success, further reducing the opportunity for tertiary education among the rural and low-income groups.

Given the small number of openings in the regular program relative to the demand, continuing education remains among the few options left for most students who completed their secondary education. Higher education institutions in Ethiopia run evening and summer programs to address those students not admissible through the regular program. As per the 1998/99 Educational Abstract of the Ministry of Education, there were 22,585 students pursuing their studies (both degree and diploma) through this arrangement, accounting for 35 percent of overall enrollment in the country.

The major clientele of evening programs are either civil servants who intend to upgrade their qualifications or those who have been denied admission to the

regular programs. An evening degree generally takes approximately 6 years to complete, while the evening diploma can be completed in 3 to 4 years. The summer (or Kiremt) arrangement is basically designed to upgrade the qualifications of primary and secondary school teachers. A five-summer session is needed to complete a bachelor's degree, while a diploma program takes only three summers.

While being less demanding than the regular degree program, the evening program is still competitive and involves a GPA cut off point for screening applicants. The screening procedure further serves to assign students to particular fields of study once their admission has been approved. Business (accounting, engineering, economics and management), law and information studies are highly preferred fields and entrance in them, therefore, requires a highly competitive GPA. Most evening programs do not provide courses in the natural sciences, pharmacology and medicine.

#### **Financing Higher Education**

In the years following the introduction of university education in Ethiopia, students participating in regular programs were provided with free room and board and were given pocket money. In spite of the profound changes in the socio-economic fabric of society, the tradition of free higher education has been maintained with students' living and instructional costs coming out of the public purse; only the pocket money has disappeared. Students enrolled in summer programs have their tuition and living expenses (with the exception of some miscellaneous costs including laundry and occasional transportation) covered by their employer, the Ministry of Education. Students enrolled in evening programs, on the other hand, have to pay substantial tuition and cover their own living costs.

On average, it is reported that about 12 percent of the education budget goes to higher education, compared to 65 percent to primary, 17 percent to secondary and 4 percent to other aspects of education (MOE, 1998). Of this, more than 40 percent is used to cover faculty and staff salaries.

While its allocation from the education budget is relatively small, the unit cost of higher education is higher than the costs for primary and secondary education. According to the 1999/2000 report of the Planning and Programming Department of the Ministry of Education, for example, the unit cost for higher education is 5,250 Birr (US\$3,500) compared to Birr 123 (US\$82) and Birr 255 (US\$170) for primary and secondary education respectively. The high unit cost aside, the recurrent budget for higher education is continuing to increase over time and constitutes a heavy financial burden on the government. The recurrent budgets for the years 1996/7, 1997/8 and 1998/9 were US\$65million, US\$97million and US\$133 million respectively.

While less significant, some assistance to higher education also comes from various UN agencies and bilateral donors. Some of these agencies that finance the system through grants, experts, scholarships and consultancy include the UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, the World Bank, SAREC, USAID, SIDA and the British Council (Habtamu, 2000).

For "Estimated Expenses of Higher Education" see:

[http://www.gse.buffalo.edu/org/IntHigherEdFinance/region\\_africaEthiopia.html](http://www.gse.buffalo.edu/org/IntHigherEdFinance/region_africaEthiopia.html)

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## Partnerschule Sheki /

### Dedo

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Am 25. 12.2001 besuchten wir (nun schon zum zweiten Mal) unsere Partnerschule in Sheki Schulbezirk Dedo. Wir wurden sehr herzlich von den Lehrern empfangen. In unserem Gepäck hatten wir Wandzeitungen, die die Schüler aller Klassenstufen in unserem Gymnasium im Rahmen des Englischunterrichtes angefertigt hatten, bzw. die die Mitglieder der Arbeitsgruppe Äthiopien für unsere Freunde in ihrer Freizeit vorbereitet hatten. Auf diesen Wandzeitungen wurden Sportler und Musikgruppen Deutschlands oder auch anderer Staaten vorgestellt. Wir haben über sportliche und musikalische Aktivitäten unserer Schule und unserer Sportvereine (z.B. Faustball in Benndorf) berichtet, aber auch über uns und unsere Arbeit am Gymnasium. Diese Wandzeitungen werden nun die Klassenräume unserer Partnerschule in Dedo schmücken. Wir hatten aber auch 1750 DM im Gepäck, die von Schülern, Lehrern und der Bevölkerung unserer Heimatorte gespendet worden sind.

Alle Schülerinnen und Schüler haben sich dann auf dem Schulhof versammelt. Herr Völtz erzählte über die Spendenaktion in unserer Schule, richtete die Grüße aus und ließ dann die Schüler ausrechnen, dass diese 1750 DM fast 7000 Birr waren. Einigen Schülern stockte dabei der Atem. Die meisten der Eltern haben keine Arbeit und die, die welche haben, verdienen vielleicht 200 Birr im Monat. Da war die aus Deutschland, aus Benndorf, mitgebrachte Summe natürlich ein Vermögen. Ein Schüler bedankte sich im Namen der anderen Schülerinnen, Schüler und Lehrer recht herzlich und ließ alle "seine Freunde" in Benndorf recht herzlich grüßen. Zum Abschluss sangen sie uns noch ein kleines Lied, indem der Vorsänger sich bei uns allen bedankte und die Gruppe dann immer in dieses Dankeschön einstimmte.

Ein Rundgang durch die Klassenräume und die Schulbibliothek beendete unseren Besuch in Dedo.

Dedo ist eine Schule, die in den letzten Jahren ausgerichtet worden ist, ein Bindeglied zwischen der Schulbildung auf dem Land und dem Gymnasium in Jimma herzustellen. Die Wege nach Jimma sind für die Schüler viel zu weit, deshalb werden jetzt 9. und 10. Klassen in Dedo unterrichtet. Zur Zeit sind es jeweils 5 Klassen pro Klassenstufe. In jeder Klasse sind etwa 55 Schüler. Insgesamt hat die Schule 590 Schüler. Diese werden von 20 Lehrern unterrichtet. Es gibt nur 2 Lehrerinnen an dieser Schule. Der Anteil der Mädchen beträgt etwa 35% und ist in den letzten 2 Jahren etwas angestiegen. Alle Lehrer in Dedo haben einen Abschluß am TTC oder an der Universität gemacht. Es wird vormittags und nachmittags unterrichtet.

Als Fächer wurden uns genannt: Oromiffa, Amharisch, Mathematik, Englisch, Physik, Biologie, Geografie, Geschichte, Sozialkunde, Chemie und Sport. Oromiffa und Amharisch werden jeweils mit 3 Wochenstunden unterrichtet. Die Schüler sprechen zu Hause zu einem großen Teil Oromiffa.

Zu ihren größten Problemen gehört die Versorgung mit elektrischer Energie. Sie sollen zwar mal an eine Überlandverbindung angeschlossen werden, aber der Zeitpunkt liegt nicht fest. Das in der Nähe von Jimma sich im Bau befindliche Kraftwerk (Wasserkraftwerk) soll 2004/2005 fertiggestellt werden. An der Schule kann deshalb nur bis zum Einbruch der Dunkelheit gearbeitet werden. Ihre Vorstellungen gehen aber dahin, dass sie auch Abendkurse anbieten würden, bzw. könnten, wenn ein Generator ihnen eine Stromversorgung in den Abendstunden möglich machen würde. Deshalb steht der Wunsch nach einem Generator auch an oberster Stelle ihrer Problemliste, bzw. Mängelliste. Auf Anfrage erklärten sie mir, dass ein Generator etwa 40 000 Birr kostet. Ich würde vielleicht aber über eine Solaranlage zur Betreibung eines Generators nachdenken, denn der Transport von Diesel nach Dedo gehört

bestimmt auch nicht zu den zuverlässigsten Varianten. Ein zweites Problem sind für sie die Schulmöbel. Die Klassen sind nur sehr notdürftig und unzureichend mit Bänken und Tischen ausgestattet. Sie werden aber das von uns mitgebrachte Geld nutzen, um einen oder vielleicht auch zwei Klassenzimmer mit Bänken zu vervollständigen. Der ortsansässige Tischler soll die Arbeiten übernehmen.

Unterrichtsmittel sind ebenfalls nur sehr spärlich vorhanden. Das meiste gibt es noch für Biologie, während für Chemie und Physik nichts vorhanden ist. Wünschenswert wären wohl auch einige Landkarten als Anschauungsmaterial für den Geografieunterricht. Die Schulbibliothek wird sehr gut genutzt. Wir hatten im Jahr 2000 bereits einmal 4000 DM in Form von Büchern für den Lesesaal gesponsert; vorwiegend Nachschlagewerke in Oromiffa, Amharisch und Englisch. Vielleicht können wir da noch einmal etwas machen.

Aus den Briefen unserer Freunde wissen wir, dass bereits einige Mädchen die nachfolgende Schule, das Gymnasium in Jimma sehr gut abgeschlossen haben und 2 im Addis Abeba Mathematik bzw. Chemie studieren. Für die meisten Schüler bestehen aber noch wenig Aussichten, einen Ausbildungsplatz oder einen Studienplatz zu bekommen.  
Martina Völtz

## Education in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Ethiopia

### Article 51

Powers and Functions of the Federal Government  
3.It shall establish and implement national standards and basic policy criteria for public health, education, science and technology as well as for the protection and preservation of cultural and historical legacies.

### Article 52

Powers and Functions of States  
1.All powers not given expressly to the Federal Government alone, or concurrently to the Federal Government and the States are reserved to the States.  
2.Consistent with sub-Article 1 of this Article, States shall have the following powers and functions:

f. To enact and enforce laws on the State civil service and their condition of work; in the implementation of this responsibility it shall ensure that educational training and experience requirements for any job, title or position approximate national standards;

#### Article 90

##### Social Objectives

1. To the extent the country's resources permit, policies shall aim to provide all Ethiopians access to public health and education, clean water, housing, food and social security.

2. Education shall be provided in a manner that is free from any religious influence, political partisanship or cultural prejudices.

## Berichte zur Bildung in Äthiopien

### Elementary School Enrollment up by 3.6 Per cent in Amhara State

Bahir Dar, December 28, 2001 (WIC)- The Amhara Regional State Education Bureau disclosed that elementary school enrollment in the State has risen by 3.6 per cent this year. Regular Education Team Leader with the Bureau, Ato Ayele Birke said yesterday the rise in elementary school enrollment from 51 per cent to 54.6 percent this year was the result of 23 new elementary schools that started operation by admitting over one million school children.

Ato Ayele attributed the rise in student enrollment also to the increasing level of awareness about the benefit of education on the part of rural parents who in the past were adamant about sending their children to school and keeping them busy with farm work instead.

### Vocational Training Center Faces Financial Problems

Debre Markos, December 23, 2001 (WIC)- Educational activities at the Debre markos Vocational Training Center are being hampered due to shortage of funding, the center's Administration disclosed. Director of the Center, Ato Semahegne Mengistu, told Walta that the

State Government has allocated only 312,000 birr of the 1 million birr budget the center had requested. He said the increase in the number of students which has reached 625 this academic year, a three fold growth compared with last year's, has also exerted pressure on the educational activities of the center. He said he has informed the Social Sector Office of the State Administration about the problem, but no reaction has come from the administration so far. The Center is among the hundreds established in the country as part of the implementation of the New Educational Policy, which emphasizes vocational and skills training.

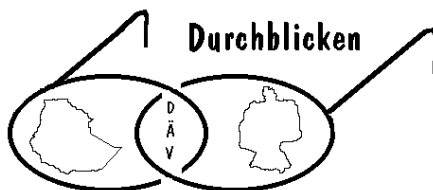
### Primary School Wins UNESCO Award

Addis Ababa, December 23, 2001 (ENA)- The Bethlehem Primary School in Addis Ababa has won an international Peace Pillar Award of the Associated Schools Project Network of the UN Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The Bethlehem School won the UNESCO award after competing with schools worldwide, the Ethiopian Embassy in Paris, said. The Embassy said Friday that the school presented a successful human rights project under the umbrella of the International Year for the Culture of Peace 2000. It said the schools project involved students, teachers and the community under the umbrella of peace. It also strengthened the principle of "learning to know, to do, to be and to live together" which are the major guidance of the International Commission on Education for the Twenty-first Century. UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network was started in Ethiopia in February 1996 and has now embraced 72 educational institutions, it was learnt.

### Church Undertaking Close to Two Million Birr Development Projects

Addis Ababa, December 21, 2001 (WIC)- The Alem-tena Catholic Church in Dugadabora Woreda of East Shewa zone of Oromia State is undertaking various integrated development projects with an outlay of close to 2 million birr this Ethiopian year. Project

Coordinator with the Church, Ato Mezgebu Korsu told reporters during on site visit to the projects yesterday that the projects focused on ensuring primary health care, basic education provision and sinking of potable water wells. He said the projects were undertaken through Fund secured from the Catholic Relief Service (CRS) Ethiopia programme, the International Catholic Sisters Association and the local people. The Church was offering basic education to children and adults in two schools it constructed in cooperation with the local people, he said. During the field trip the children told reporters that they were lucky that they were attending school at their doorsteps while doing other businesses, until they were able to attend schools in areas further away. The students would join grade four after three years of school in their area. The Church had also sunk three water wells in three kebeles of the Woreda. It also installed grain mill and constructed model houses to demonstrate clean residential houses to promote maternal health to the people in the localities.



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## **ADA To Convene General Assembly Next Saturday**

Addis Ababa, December 19, 2001 (WIC)- The Amhara Development Association (ADA) will convene its 3rd general assembly on December 22 in Bahar Dar. Geshaw Abebe, ADA's Promotion Department Head said the assembly will particularly review the performance of the Association during the last four years, and ADA's five year strategic plan. ADA is one of the local NGOs extensively involved in development activities in Amhara, the Head said adding that it has among others provided training to 3500 youth in various skills over the last four years. Established in 1992, the ADA is a voluntary organization currently executing various development projects in Amhara, focusing on education, health rural road construction and skills training.

## **Debut University Introduces Seven New Field of Studies**

Awassa, December 16, 2001 (WIC)- The Debut University in Awassa disclosed that it had admitted some 730 students in seven new field of studies it launched at degree and diploma levels during the current academic year. Academic and Research Vice president of the University, Dr. Tesfaye Teshome told WIC that the new fields of studies include Accounting, Economics, Management, Language, Chemistry, Physics, Biology and Mathematics. He said some 500 of the students were admitted in the fields of Sciences while the remaining were accepted for social science studies. He said the internal facilities of students' dormitories and classrooms of 142 rooms buildings in Awassa campus would soon be finalized to admit students who were currently attending classes at Addis Ababa University during second semester.

## **Code, Ethiopia to distribute 80,000 books to high schools**

Addis Ababa, December 02, 2001 (WIC) - Code-Ethiopia, a non-governmental organization disclosed that it has finalized preparations to distribute some

80,000 academic books to various high schools across the country. General Manager of the Organization, Ato Tesfaye Dubale told WIC that the books were worth over four million birr. He said his organization had worked out the means of distribution of the books to high schools across five states together with the ministry of education. The books were focused on Language, Law, Medicine, building technology as well various social science streams, he said.

## **Somali Community Literacy Centre**

This multi-purpose centre was established in January 1997 to provide basic education to Somali refugees living in Addis Ababa. It stresses women literacy programmes and holds English language courses, computer training, sports activities, education counseling, and also runs an elementary school and book lending service for the community. Located in the Bole area, it also assists other such schools in Addis Ababa. Contact: P.O. Box 419 Code 1110 Tel: 63.16.10 Email: [somlit@hotmail.com](mailto:somlit@hotmail.com) <http://www.whatsappaddis.com/> What's Up: A monthly newsletter from Addis Ababa (December 2001)

## **Germany encourages Ethiopian scholars to return home**

Addis Ababa, November 29, 2001 (ENA)- The government of Germany has announced plans to provide financial and material support to Ethiopian university graduates in Germany provided that they have the desire to return home and serve their country. According to Radio Deutsche Welle monitored here, the coordinators told the two-day Ethiopian scholars meeting in Frankfurt that Germany was ready to provide the returnees funds and other materials that could enable them to run their activities. The radio said Germany has also agreed to cover their transportation fees. It said the government has also reaffirmed its commitment to provide supplementary subsidy ranging from 750-3,000 DM per month that would last for two years. Germany has shown its

willingness to provide computer sets, stationery and workshop equipment to the returnees, it said. The radio quoted the coordinators as saying that the donation is part of the new German development policy designed to mitigate the brain drain in the developing countries. President of Ethiopian Former Students Association in Germany, Hailu Zewge, urged Ethiopian scholars to make use of the rare opportunity and return home to contribute their share in the nation-building process. According to recent reports, 60 per cent of Africans studying abroad have failed to return to their respective countries.

## **Students in Oromia begin classes in agricultural institution**

Addis Ababa, November 29, 2001 (WIC)- The Oromia State Agriculture Bureau disclosed that 95 per cent of the 3868 students assigned to agricultural training institutions for tenth grade leavers have begun classes. According to Befekadu Jiregna, Acting Head of the Training, Management and Public Relations Office with the Bureau, girls who scored 1.6 in the 10th grade national examination and boys with above 1.8 have started classes in agricultural training institutions in Holeta, Bako, Nedjo, Assela, Chiro, Kombolcha and Becho. Befekadu said the students would receive diploma level training in cattle breeding, crop production, natural resources conservation and agricultural mechanization, among others. The training was prepared in such a way as to help students acquire knowledge in modern agricultural technologies for application by the peasant society, he said. He also said that the duration of the trainings in the agricultural institutions is three years.

## **Conference suggests establishment of unit reviewing education policy**

Adama, November 13, 2001 (ENA)- Educators have called for reviewing the existing education and training policy at different levels of the management structure while the Addis Ababa

University (AAU) pledged to exert efforts to bring about improvement in the quality of education in the country. The educators who met here from November 9-12 in a national conference on the quality of primary education in Ethiopia indicated the need to establish an independent policy analysis unit for the reviewing. The scholars have also indicated the need to resolve multiple accountability of teachers and management staff to avoid inefficiency at the implementation level. Some 180 participants drawn from the Ministry of Education bureaux, international organizations, pertinent governmental and non-governmental organizations as well as stakeholders attended the conference. Referring to a study, the participants said teachers were found to have negative attitude towards self contained classes and suggested that it should be approached differently in accordance with school patterns. Education at the primary level failed to generate interest in the choice of vocational education and this may have an impact on vocational training later on in the education system, according to a report of the conference. The report said the participants suggested the promotion of necessary pre-school education aimed at solving poor early experience, large class size and poor socio-economic status of students with learning difficulties in primary schools. They said expansion of preprimary education for children has to be given due attention in consideration to closer pre-school/primary education relationship, especially for language acquisition. Discussing the issues of teacher education and gender, they said, the low economic status of primary school teachers in many areas force them to be engaged in moonlighting, brain leakage and brain recycling to seek other income earning jobs affecting the quality of their teaching. Lack of assertiveness, unwanted pregnancy, low teacher expectation and domestic labour were causing gender disparity in enrolment, repetition and dropout, they said. They indicated the need for gender sensitive training, advocacy, lobbying, awareness building and introduction of legal protection, among others, to solve the problem of gender disparity in

primary education enrolment. In his closing remarks, AAU Academic Vice President Dr. Tetemke Mehari said the AAU was committed to the improvement of quality of education and for encouraging research in Ethiopia. The issue of the large increase in primary gross enrollment ratio in the past few years is highly encouraging to reach the envisaged universal primary education by 2015, he said. Such problems need to be carefully studied, debated on, planned and solution sought for them, he recommended. Themes, such as policy, research and management curriculum assessment, teaching and learning process were discussed at length.

### **Bureau to train close to 3000 10th grade leavers, agricultural workers**

Bahir Dar, November 10, 2001 (WIC) - The Amhara State Agriculture Bureau disclosed that it would give training in agriculture to 2058 tenth grade leavers and close to 900 agricultural experts. Training Coordinator with the Bureau, Zemen Tassew, said yesterday that the students selected for the training were those who scored 2.0 and above in the 10th grade national examinations. He said the agricultural workers who would undergo the training, had previously been offered similar training for a duration of nine months. According to Zemene, the agricultural training institutions, which would enroll the trainees, have completed preparations to start the training programme soon. The training would be given at the agricultural training institutions in the State and outside the State.

### **Where Is Ethiopia's Education Heading?**

AddisTribune 09.11.2001  
Ethiopia's highly controversial education policy is once again proving to be debatable, as the Ministry of Education refuses about a dozen students from the Benishangul-Gumuz Regional State entry into higher learning institutions in the country, even though they have obtained the minimum grades that grant them entry. The students were bluntly told by an official of the Ministry

that they are not entitled to the government scholarship that enables them to pursue their studies, for the simple reason that they were not natives of certain ethnic groups in the Regional State, who are entitled to special entry privileges. Those students have earned their place. Like their Gumuz and Benishangul brethren, they had surmounted the difficulties of being students in decrepit and poorly staffed schools that have no or very few books and other educational materials. The action of the Ministry effectively makes useless the years of hard work they have invested in their studies. This is farcical, and a violation of the rights of the students as citizens of this country. While one highly appreciates the "affirmative action", which gives students from the less privileged, fringe communities a better opportunity to pursue their studies in higher learning institutions, the remark recently made by an official of the Ministry, is extreme, and borders on outright racism.

### **Training Institute readied in Somali State**

Godie, October 25, 2001 (WIC) - The Somali State Agriculture Bureau announced that the Agricultural and Technical Training Institute built at a cost of 14 million birr in Godie Town of the State will become operational this year. Head of the Livestock, Natural Resources Development and Crop Protection Department with the Bureau, Mehadi Mussie Kedir, told WIC yesterday that the institute was ready to receive last year's 10th grade leavers as well as some 100 development workers. Three teachers were assigned to the institute by the Ministry of Agriculture, Mehadi said adding that curricula were also prepared for ten subjects to be offered in the institute. According to him, the curricula were prepared with due consideration of the relevant realities in the State.

### **72 Percent of Ethiopia's Children Said Have No Access to Formal Education**

ADDIS ABABA, September 5, 2001 (ENA) - Seventy-two percent of millions of school age children in Ethiopia do not have access to formal education, a



study paper indicated. According to the paper presented at a two-day workshop on basic education in Ethiopia, here yesterday, the disparity between states and gender remained high even though the government expenditure on education has reached over 15 percent of the nation's annual budget. The paper indicated that drop out at the first cycle of the primary education was also as high as 26 percent. Although schools intake, enrollment rate, availability of textbooks and other indicators of the level of basic education in the country have shown remarkable rise over the past five years, rigorous efforts should be deployed to meet the national demands of educational programme, the author of the paper said. Opening the conference, field office director with Save the Children-USA (SC-USA), Jay Zimmerman said basic education as the right of every person "should be strengthened at national level encompassing all relevant ministries and national and civil society organizations." Director General of Adult and Informal Education Association of Ethiopia (AIEAE), Mammo Kebede said on his part that the workshop was organized with a view to give basic education more focus and better attention. The workshop was organized by AIEAE in cooperation with Basic education Network and SC-USA.

### **AAU graduates 3,433 students**

Addis Ababa, August 25, 2001 (WIC) - The Addis Ababa University graduated today a total of 3,433 students who had attended regular, continuing education and post-graduate programmes. The students had completed their studies in business and economics, education, language, law, medicine, and veterinary science, among others. Some 2,961 of the graduates have attended the regular and continuing education programs while the rest have undergone post-graduate education. Speaking at the graduation ceremony, University President Professor Eshetu Woncheko told the graduates to do their utmost for their country and live up to the expectation of their society. Professor Eshetu noted that this year's graduation ceremony was observed when the University celebrated its 50th

anniversary during which it assessed its weaknesses and strengths. He also said that the class boycotts last April by students and pursued until recently, was a phenomenon that has saddened families of the students, the University administration and instructors as well as the government. He expressed hope that in the event of such problems in the future, the community would support the University in efforts at solving the problem.

### **Bureau Says Successful in the Provision of Informal Education**

Addis Ababa, July 17, 2001 (WIC)- The Education Bureau of Oromia State said significant achievements were registered in efforts exerted towards enabling the State's children and adults benefit from informal education. Informal Education Department Head with the Bureau, Kibre Jemera, told WIC today that a total of 1,195,000 children and adults have undergone the informal education offered over the past four years. Some 258 basic education stations were offering the education to the children and adults following the setting up of a department and the preparation of a curriculum for the provision of informal education in the state, Kibre said. He also said that text books of Oromiffa, English, Mathematics and Geography were prepared and distributed to teachers and students. According to him, the preparation's and distribution of the text books were undertaken in collaboration with non-governmental organizations and civic institutions. Kibre noted that some 52 libraries were also opened for the children and adults to help them develop the knowledge they have acquired at the educational posts. A number of non-governmental organizations operating in the State were contributing significantly to the endeavour by building basic education stations, publishing text books and paying teachers salaries, he said adding that Action-Aid had in this regard allotted 5.5 million birr to help execute the informal education programme.

### **University Conducting 150 Research Projects**

Addis Ababa, July 15, 2001 (WIC)-Researchers in various faculties of the Addis Ababa University (AAU) are involved in more than 150 research projects, the University's Research and Publication office disclosed. Professor Endeshaw Bekele, Head of the Office, said the research projects are being financed by a 50 million birr funding, secured from AAU's own sources, donors and revenue from publications. He told WIC that instructors in various faculties are required to dedicate about a quarter of their time to research activities, as part of the University's Commitment to research and development. Similarly about 75 percent the work of those in research centers affiliated to the University must constitute research, Professor Endeshaw said. He further said Research activities at the University, which numbered less than 20 prior to the launching of 2nd and 3rd degree programmes, have grown tremendously, and have now researched 150. According to the Head, the University conducts its research activities against several challenges, which included financial and material constraints. Research activities are also being impeded by the absence of a research fund at the AAU, Prof. Endeshaw said adding that whatever funding is obtained through the researchers themselves could not be utilized properly because of red-tape inherent in the University's procedures.

### **Universities Get Support**

15.12.2000 Addis Tribune  
Norway Assists Capacity Building  
Norway made a financial assistance of approximately ETB 248 000 to the International Institute for Rural Reconstruction (IIRR) in support of the effort to upgrade the institutional capacity of the Debu University, according to an embassy press release. The agreement for the assistance was signed between the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Addis and the Regional Director of IIRR on 12th December 2000. The donation will be used to produce a project planning proposal to build the institutional capacity of the University with the focus of enhancing the effectiveness of the research, extension and teaching

programmes of the colleges under it.

#### USA Supplies Books

In a related development, U.S. Ambassador Tibor P. Nagy, Jr., presented over \$ 1.8 million USD (approximately over 14 million Birr) worth of books to various higher education institutions located throughout Ethiopia. Representatives from AAU (Science Faculty, Medical Faculty and Zewditu Nursing School), Alemaya University, Dilla College of Teachers Education and Health Science, Gondar College of Medical Science, Jimma University, Ethiopian Civil Service College (ECSC), as well as the Nursing Schools of Bahir Dar, Harar, Jijiga and Mekelle received the donation at a ceremony held at the U.S. Embassy. Ambassador Nagy remarked that the book donation stands testament to the U.S. government's continued commitment to working in partnership with the Ethiopian government and people to promote the development of Ethiopia's education sector.

#### Schools Experience Difficulty Implementing New Teaching Method

Assosa, October 26, 2000 (WIC) - Education Bureau officials in several States say that schools in their respective States have difficulty implementing the self-contained teaching method because of the intrinsic problem associated with the method. This was disclosed by Education Bureau heads and experts who are meeting at the 10th National Education Administration Conference, which is underway in Assosa town. Ato Yoseph Anteneh, Head of the Amhara State Education Bureau told a WIC reporter that the success rate of students who have been taught along this method is low because it involves teachers who are made to take up various subjects without considering their capabilities and interest. The new program also faces complications because schools experimenting with the approach don't have sufficient teaching material and suffer from shortage of teachers qualified to implement it, Yoseph said. In Tigray, the self-contained teaching method is performing

poorly because of what a department head at State Education Bureau called "lack of awareness" about it, hindering conditions for creating favorable teaching learning environment in schools. According to Ato Abraha Asfaw, Curriculum Department head at the Tigray State Education Bureau, there is a need to probe into the problems and come up with practical solutions. Education Bureau Heads of the southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples and Gambela States further emphasized the concerns voiced by their counterparts in other regions. They cited shortage of teaching material, limitations on the capacity of teachers involved in the program as some of the major problems that have emerged in executing it. But Weizero Genet Zewde, Minister of Education said in an opening statement to the conference that the first phase of the new education and training policy has registered satisfactory results during the last five years. Genet said that efforts were also being exerted to implement the second phase of the programme over the coming five years. Education Bureau heads of all States, representatives of women Affairs in the Prime Minister's Office, State Teachers' Associations and the Ethiopian Teachers' Association are in attendance at the six-day conference.

#### Post-Graduate Programmes in Pharmacy, Political Science and International Relations to Start

18.8.2000 (Addis Tribune) - The Addis Ababa University (AAU) is poised to start next Ethiopian academic year post-graduate programmes in pharmacy, political science and international relations. According to Biruck Hailu, external relations head at the university, the programmes were the result of 10 years of study and research. Established nearly fifty years ago, University College - the predecessor of AAU - currently has 60 first degree, 44 post-graduate and six PhD programmes. It has an enrolment of 21,000 students and a staff of 850 at its 11 faculties, colleges and other institutions. The university is undertaking over 290 study and research projects, it was learnt.

#### Distance Education to Begin for 5-8 Grade Teachers

ADDIS ABABA, May 2, 2000 (WIC) - Preparations have been finalized for launching a programme of distance education aimed at enhancing the capacity of 5-8 grade teachers, the Minister of Education said. Woizero Genet Zewdie, the Minister, told Abiotawi Democracy that the beneficiaries of the programme are 5-8 grade teachers who are holding certificates in teaching in line with the new educational and training policy. The Ministry said the summer courses that used to be given for these teachers in the last three years were not adequate and hence the need for launching the distance education programme. Woizero Genet said the practice of giving summer courses every year at the Kotebe Teachers' College or in other institutions, besides taking a very long time, cannot also benefit all teachers. She also disclosed that Indian experts have already started making the essential material preparations for the distance educational programme. The Minister said the teachers will obtain the lessons while on their job. According to the Minister, this decision to start distance education for 5-8 grade teachers is part of the government's programme of enhancing the capacity of elementary school teachers thereby improving the quality of education.

Woizero Genet said there are sufficient number of teachers for 1-4 grades but these require retraining. The Minister added that a participatory and attractive teaching methodology has also been launched in co-operation with UNICEF in Schools in Dire Dawa, Harar, Benishangul Gumuz, Gambela and Amhara states. Asked to comment on complaints against self-contained educational programme for 1-4 grade, the Minister said this educational approach is intended only to facilitate the implementation of the new educational policy. She said this approach has two advantages Psychological and economic. While educating children with one

teacher creates a family atmosphere for the children and help them to more easily be acclimatized to the school environment, this method also carries economic significance because it facilitates the utilization of existing teachers more economically. According to Woizero Genet, the self-contained approach is not as unpopular as some might think and it is being widely implemented in Dire Dawa, Harar, Benishangul Gumuz, Amhara and Oromia while preparations are being made in Tigray to launch it. Woizero Genet also said the decision to stop secondary education at 10th grade has been made in consideration of the need to prepare students for various specializations after giving them general education until the 10th grade. It is not wise to give academic education until 12th grade and letting the students go it alone after that, she said, adding that a total of 150 vocational and technical institutions have been prepared for accepting those students that are educated until the 10th grade.

### **Conference deliberates on improving quality of education**

Dire Dawa, August 29, 1999 - Participants of the 9th national conference on education representing the nine states, Dire Dawa Administrative Council and Addis Ababa City Administration have been urged to work for the betterment of the system in the country in collaboration with NGOs, other governmental offices and donor agencies. Closing the five-day conference here yesterday, Ato Mohammed Hassen Economic Development and Social Sector Head with in the Dire Dawa Administrative Council, said that the meeting had successfully discussed in detail the annual performance reports in each state, including Addis Ababa. It was also mentioned that the conference assessed the participation of the public in implementing the Education Sector Development Programme (ESD), observed the role of state councils and the overall assistance provided by the Ministry of Education. According to available information, the Ethiopian Teachers' Association (ETA) presented its annual report and that problems encountered in the process of improving the quality of education were

discussed in detail along with recommended solutions. Participants had reached on a common understanding on how the issues need to be addressed with the exchange of experiences, and possibly through collective assessment. The meeting had agreed, among other things, on capacity building training schemes, expansion of libraries, improvement on educational materials, and the recruitment of prospective teachers in the nomadic areas from among locals whenever practical. Areas deserving of priority attention include fluctuation in the performance of female students, the delay in the implementation of the new education policy in the Somali State and the impact of narcotics and other drugs affecting the psychological makeup of students. Participants also unanimously decided that the Education Sector Development Programme should continue, capacity building trainings be encouraged, the quality of education be further upgraded and annual sporting events between and among schools and regions be continued by removing obstacles. Attending the conference were W/ro Genet Zewdie, Minister of Education, department heads and other senior staff of the ministry, department heads, education bureaux heads and experts from Afar, Somali, Harari, Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples State, Oromia, Amhara, Tigray, Benshangul-Gumuz and Gambella states, Dire Dawa Administrative Council, and Addis Ababa City Administration. The 10th annual conference will be held in September next year in Benishangul-Gumuz State in northwest Ethiopia, it was disclosed.

### **Addis Ababa University - The Faculty of Technology**

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#### **Brief History**

The Faculty of Technology has two major units, both with distinct beginnings of their own. One of

these, the current Northern Campus, grew out of the former Imperial College of Engineering. The second, the current Southern Campus, was formerly called the Ethio-Swedish Institute of Building Technology.

The College of Engineering was opened in 1953. Initially, it offered a two-year programme of intermediate engineering studies. The students were subsequently sent abroad for a further study leading to a B.Sc. Degree. Later, a four-year degree programme in civil and industrial engineering was launched, and the first batch graduated in July 1958. In the following year, the industrial engineering programme was split into Electrical and Mechanical Engineering programmes, and the duration of the study for all programmes was extended to five years. In 1961, the College became a chartered member of Addis Ababa University. The Faculty expanded further in 1963 by opening a department of architecture and urban planning. In 1965, the College moved from its former location in the compound of the Technical School at Mexico Square to the Arat Kilo Campus (the current Faculty of Science). The College moved to its present campus in 1969 and the Department of Architecture moved to the Southern Campus during this period.

The former Building College, formally known as the Ethio-Swedish Institute of Building College, was founded in 1954 through a bilateral agreement between the Ethiopian and Swedish Governments. The initial educational scheme, launched in 1955, aimed at offering a three-year diploma programme in building engineering. At the end of the 1957/58 academic year, the training was upgraded to a four-year programme leading to a B.Sc. Degree in building engineering. It was reviewed yet again and changed to a three-year diploma programme in 1962. As a result of recommendations made at various times, especially those of a study team in 1968 and the Presidential Commission in 1968, and the report of the Technical Survey Team of 1969, the College of Engineering and the Building College merged to form the present Faculty of Technology in 1969.

The Northern Campus, located on the main road between the main

campus of Addis Ababa University and the Science Faculty, contains the Departments of Civil, Electrical, Mechanical and Chemical Engineering.

The Departments based in the Southern Campus - in the south-western part of Addis Ababa, adjacent to the High Court Building on the Jimma Road - are the Department of Architecture and Urban planning, the Department of Building Technology, and the Materials Research and Testing Department.

A further milestone in expansion and strengthening of engineering education in the country was the opening by the Faculty of two M.Sc. Programmes, first in 1979 in Civil Engineering and then in 1985 in Electrical Engineering.

### OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Faculty of Technology can be broadly defined as follows:

- to produce trained manpower in the various fields of Engineering and Architecture in its regular, extension, and postgraduate programmes
- to further, through relevant study and research, architectural and technological capabilities of the country in line with the national development objectives
- to offer technical consultancy services to Government Ministries and other state and private organizations
- to provide and expedite appropriate training programmes to Government and private employees with the view to upgrading and updating their skills
- to prepare and plan the introduction of study in the other Architectural and Engineering areas such as urban design, housing, mining, metallurgy, etc.

### STUDY PROGRAMMES

Undergraduate Programmes

In its regular programme, the Faculty offers Advanced Diploma and B.Sc. Degree Programmes. The Programmes leading to a B.Sc. Degree are offered by the Departments of Architecture & Urban Planning, Chemical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering, and Mechanical Engineering. The duration of study period is uniformly five years. Further more, the Department of Building Technology offers a three-year Advanced Diploma programme.

All students wishing to join any of the Departments situated in the Northern Campus follow a common programme of study during the first three semesters: two semesters in the Science Freshman Programme and one semester in Pre-Engineering Department of the Faculty. Students are then allowed to choose the department, which they want to join. If more students wish to join a certain department than the capacity of the department, placement is carried out competitively on the basis of the cumulative grade point average obtained during the three semester. Students of the Building Technology Department are assigned directly to the respective Departments on joining the University. Students wishing to join the Department of Architecture and Urban Planning must also pass a qualifying examination after the Science Freshman Programme.

### Post-Graduate Programmes

The Departments of Civil Engineering and Electrical Engineering have programmes, which lead to M.Sc. Degrees. The areas of specialization which are currently offered are the following:

- Civil Engineering: Hydraulics, Structures, Soil Mechanics, and Foundation Engineering.
- Electrical Engineering: Control Engineering, Power Systems, Communications Engineering, and Electronic Engineering.
- Mechanical Engineering: Thermal Engineering, Mechanical Design and Industrial Engineering.

All the M.Sc. Programmes take 2 years to complete. The Departments of Architecture and Urban Planning and Chemical Engineering plan to launch a graduate programme in the near future.

### Continuing Education Programmes

The Faculty of Technology runs Evening Programmes in the fields of Civil, Electrical, Mechanical, and Building Engineering. All departments offer a five-year advanced diploma programme. In addition, the Departments of Civil Engineering and Electrical Engineering offer an eight-year B.Sc. Programme.

### Graduation Requirements

A CGPA of 2.00 or above is required for graduation of

Advanced Diploma and B.Sc. programmes. A CGPA of 3.00 is required for graduation with M.Sc. Degree.

### RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

One of the most important missions of the Faculty is to assist the development objectives of the country through applied and basic research. Research projects that are currently underway include the following:

- Civil Engineering: Multi-purpose water resources development project; Preparation of design aid for reinforced concrete hollow sections.
- Chemical Engineering: Biogas manufacturing, Defluorization of Awash River.
- Electrical Engineering: Application and performance evaluation of solar photovoltaic systems.
- Mechanical Engineering: Solar water heating and crop drying, water turbine.

### Addis Ababa City Administration:

[http://www.waltainfo.com/Regional\\_States/AddisAbaba/Content.htm](http://www.waltainfo.com/Regional_States/AddisAbaba/Content.htm)  
Education

- Number of Senior Secondary Schools = 47
- Number of teachers = 2549
- Number of Primary School = 66
- Number of teachers = 2784
- Number of Primary School/Private/ = 37
- Number of Primary School/community/ = 8
- Number of Primary School/public/ = 118
- Training institutions = 7

Education Coverage as of the Year 2000

- At the level of kindergarten = from 19.6% to 31.6%
- On the primary level = from 84.3% to 91.9%
- On the senior secondary level = from 42 % to 44 %

Additionally, in order to minimize unemployment in the city:

- More than 1,500 men and women have trained in various vocational fields.
- More than 5,000 students, who have completed their high school level of education and have been unemployed, were trained in basic and pre-luminary vocational skills.

- In temporary environmental protection development, more than 40,000 people in the city are employed.

According to the 1991 statistics data, there are 128,491 mini and small organizations in the city, which could create job opportunities for 209,211 unemployed citizens.

## The Benishangul-Gumuz National Regional State

[http://www.waltainfo.com/Regional\\_States/Benishangul/Ben\\_home.htm](http://www.waltainfo.com/Regional_States/Benishangul/Ben_home.htm)

### Education

The present education policy and strategy of the Benishangul-Gumuz region is no different from that of the overall national education and training policy of the country. The main objectives of education and training in the region focus on establishing and promoting technical or vocational training along with the academic system; pursuing a decentralized system of administration in Primary and Secondary education; providing training and upgrading professional competence of teachers which thereby improve the quality and standard of education.

School structure of the region: 8-2-2

- 8 years of elementary education
- 2 years of general secondary education
- 2 years of preparatory senior secondary school

Number of students in 1999/2000 academic year

- Primary School students=89,777
- Senior Secondary School students = 4,012

Number of teachers in the year 1998/99

- Primary School teachers: 1,995
- Junior Secondary School teachers: 192
- Senior Secondary School teachers: 87

Number of Schools

- Primary = 251
- Junior = 24
- Senior = 9

- Number of students who sat for the national matriculation examination (ESLCE) by the

academic year 1999/2000 = 2,153

- Number of students succeeded in passing for higher education institutions = 324

- Number of students who were unable to pass the examination = 1,829

## Bericht von Herrn Meinolf Lammers, Rockbusch 14 in 48163 Münster

Daten zur St. Mary's School for Economy and Agriculture in Wukro (Tigray)

Nach der Umstellung des Schulsystems in Äthiopien war bis Mitte November 2001 an der Schule unklar, wie es weitergehen würde. Die Regierung teilt ab sofort die Studenten für den Bereich Landwirtschaft zu. In diesem Jahr sind das 200 SchülerInnen.

Ihre Ausbildungszeit beträgt 3 Jahre. Danach garantiert ihnen die Regierung die Übernahme in ein Arbeitsverhältnis.

Die SchülerInnen kommen aus dem ganzen Land. Der Staat zahlt bzw. gibt Zuschüsse für das Wohnen und den Lebensunterhalt. Das Curriculum ist vom Staat vorgegeben, ausgebildete Lehrer, die in Wukro zusätzlich gebraucht wurden, sind ebenfalls zugewiesen worden. Das Ziel der Ausbildung ist es, die SchülerInnen sehr Praxis orientiert für die Bedingungen im ländlichen Bereich auszubilden. Eine Zugangsberechtigung zum Studium ist damit nicht mehr gegeben.

Für den zweiten Bereich, der Ausbildung "Commerce", sind die vorgesehenen 60 Plätze alle besetzt, demnächst sind insgesamt 80 Plätze verfügbar. Auch diese Plätze wurden zentral vergeben; die Ausbildungszeit beträgt 2 Jahre. Sowohl für den Ausbildungsbereich

Landwirtschaft als auch "Commerce" ist eine zentrale Prüfung von Addis vorgesehen.

Daneben gibt es seit einigen Jahren eine Kurzausbildung für Holz- und Metallberufe, die jetzt auch einheitlich geregelt ist: Nach der Klasse 10 wird 1 Jahr ausgebildet. Außerdem ist jetzt noch der Bereich Elektrotechnik hinzugekommen mit ebenfalls 1 Jahr Ausbildung. Geld für die Einrichtung eines solchen neuen Unterrichtszweiges hat die Schule nicht erhalten. Für Holz, Metall und Elektro ist eine lokale Abschlussprüfung vorgesehen.

In den Klassen für Holz, Metall und Elektrik waren jeweils 20 SchülerInnen vorgesehen. Die handwerkliche Ausbildung ist offenbar nicht so angesehen oder noch nicht so bekannt: Es sind nur 18 Holz-, 12 Metall- und 7 Elektro-Ausbildungsplätze z.Zt. besetzt.

Die Zuteilung aus dem ganzen Land hat eine große Nachfrage nach Unterkunftsmöglichkeiten in Wukro gebracht.

Da bis zum 23.11.2001 noch keine Handreichungen für Lehrer und Schulbücher für den Bereich Elektrotechnik vorlagen, wird der neue Lehrer für dieses Fach sich an dem sehr umfangreichen Curriculum orientieren müssen und an den Unterlagen, die wir beide zusammen in den letzten 6 Wochen erarbeitet haben, als wir auch gemeinsam einen Werkraum für diesen neuen Zweig der Ausbildung eingerichtet haben.

## Deutsche Botschaftsschule Addis Ababa

<http://www.ds-addis.de/deutsch/>

Email: [info@ds-addis.de](mailto:info@ds-addis.de)

Die Deutsche Botschaftsschule Addis Ababa ist eine Privatschule - getragen von einem Schulverein. Grundlage für die Unterrichtsinhalte sind die Lehrpläne der Länder Nordrhein - Westfalen und Baden - Württemberg. Die Deutsche Botschaftsschule Addis Ababa gehört zu den ältesten deutschen Schulen in Afrika, die von der Bundesrepublik Deutschland sowohl finanziell als auch personell gefördert werden.

Schuljahr: Anfang September bis Anfang Juli

Ferien: Sommer 8 Wochen, Herbst 1 Woche, Weihnachten 3 Wochen, Ostern 2 Wochen

Schulgeld: Schule DM 7.800,- pro Jahr; Kindergarten DM 4.800,- pro Jahr

Sprachen: Unterrichtssprache Deutsch, Englisch ab Kl. 1, Französisch ab Kl. 7

Schwimmunterricht: in den Pools der Hotels

Busdienst: (schuleigen) gegen Kostenbeitrag

Schulkantine: täglicher Mittagsdienst

## Geschichte

Die DEUTSCHE SCHULE ADDIS ABEBA wurde 1955 gegründet und war in den 70er Jahren eine Begegnungsschule mit eigenem Internat. Nach Schließung der alten Deutschen Schule im Jahre 1978 wurde als Deutschsprachige Auslandsschule, die zu den Abschlüssen im Sek 1 Bereich führt die DEUTSCHE BOTSCHAFTSSCHULE ADDIS ABEBA neu begründet. Die Deutsche Botschaftsschule bezog im Frühjahr 2000 neue, mit Bundesmitteln erbaute Gebäude unweit des Botschaftsgeländes. Auf dem neuen Schulgelände befinden sich neben zeitgemäß eingerichteten Klassenräumen eine große Mehrzweckhalle, modern ausgestattete Labor- und Fachräume einschließlich Informatik mit aktueller Hardware sowie umfangreiche Sportanlagen, Kantine und Schulgarten.

### Unterricht

Der Schule angeschlossen ist ein ebenfalls neu erbauter Kindergarten, der ab dem vollendeten 3. Lebensjahr besucht werden kann. Die Schule arbeitet nach eigenen Lehrplänen und ist gegliedert in Grundschule und Sekundarstufe I, wobei die Klassen 5 und 6 als Orientierungsstufe geführt werden. Hauptschüler, Realschüler und Gymnasiasten werden ab Klasse 7 gemeinsam aber binnendifferenziert unterrichtet. Die Sekundarstufe I hat den Charakter eines neusprachlichen Gymnasiums. Nach einem von der Kulturministerkonferenz beaufsichtigten Abschlussverfahren ist die Schule berechtigt, das Hauptschulabschlusszeugnis zum Ende der Klasse 9 sowie das Realschulabschlusszeugnis und das Schlusszeugnis für Gymnasialschüler zum Ende der Klasse 10 zu erteilen. Das Schlusszeugnis für Gymnasialschüler berechtigt zum Eintritt in die Sekundarstufe II jedes deutschen Gymnasiums.

### Weitere Angebote

Die Schule bietet außerhalb des Lehrplans eine Reihe von Aktivitäten und Arbeitsgemeinschaften, die jährlich wechselnd verschiedenen Gebiete umfassen. Dazu gehören u.a. Amharisch, Theater, Sport, Chor, Orchester, Internet, Foto und Nähen. In unserer

Informatikabteilung haben die Schüler die Möglichkeit, sich mit Internet und E-mail vertraut zu machen sowie mit unterrichtsbezogener Software zu arbeiten. In den Klassen 9 und 10 führen wir jährlich Betriebspraktika bei renommierten einheimischen Unternehmen und Institutionen in Addis Abeba durch. Unsere Klassenfahrten und Projektwochen machen die Schüler mit der Natur und Kultur des Gastlandes vertraut. Kleine Klassen und ein engagiertes Kollegium (alle Lehrer mit deutschem Examen) sorgen für individuelle Betreuung und ein fröhliches, entspanntes Schulklima.

### Weiterführende Möglichkeiten

Nach Verlassen unserer Schule bieten sich für abgehende Schüler/innen folgende Möglichkeiten der schulischen Weiterbildung: Wechsel nach Deutschland an ein innerdeutsches Gymnasium (Sekundarstufe II) bzw. Beginn einer Berufsausbildung / Lehre; Wechsel an die Deutsche Schule Nairobi mit Internat, deutsches Abitur nach Klasse 13; Besuch einer der weiterführenden, internationalen Schulen in Addis Abeba: englische Sandford Community School, amerikanische International Community School, französisches Lycée Ethio-Français mit Abschluss des International Baccalaureate (I.B.) bzw. des französischen Baccalauréat nach Klasse 12. Für Schüler unserer Schule, die an eine dieser Schulen wechseln, wird die Vorbereitung auf das in Deutschland anerkannte I.B. in Zusammenarbeit mit den weiterführenden Partnerschulen vor Ort organisiert.

### NGO's

<http://www.mesob.org/ngo/emrda>  
3.html

### EMRDA

PO Box 7515  
Addis Ababa ETHIOPIA  
tel: 251 1 520803; fax: 251 1 519152  
e-mail: [emrda@telecom.net.et](mailto:emrda@telecom.net.et)

EMRDA's Hetosa and Dodota Sire NFE Project  
The project commenced in June 1999, based on analysis made by

EMRDA together with the Arsi Zone Education Bureau, the education offices of the two woredas and PACT Ethiopia. According to the need assessment, the following were the main critical issues stimulating EMRDA's intervention in this specific area of operation.

- 1589 school-age children at five sites were out of school due to inaccessibility to formal schools
- 99 percent of adults have not even basic literacy skills
- poor knowledge and practice of environmental protection and personal hygiene among different groups in the communities
- girls' participation in basic education was very poor.

EMRDA pursued the following strategies:

- mobilizing and sensitizing the community at large
- initiating non-formal education programs for both children and adults by establishing cost-effective and accessible centers
- recruiting and training facilitators to conduct the daily teaching-learning activities
- empowering NFEC by identifying more stakeholders

EMRDA empowers the NFE centers by establishing strong links with concerned government bodies and among the community at large. Due to poor participation of adults, it has designed and implemented innovative strategies with no expenses to help teach parents through their children in their respective residences by distributing teaching material. This can be one of the strategies to meet the "Education for by 2015" international program goal. Intensive socio-economic survey was conducted at each site by the facilitators without incurring additional costs. An education management committee is established at each site by identifying prominent, influential and indigenous intellectuals. The program is locally contextualized and considers the community's time, interest, involvement and capacity. Standard monitoring and evaluation plans are in place. Results achieved to date:

- a total of 160 adults have improved literacy skills
- environmental protection and personal hygiene is practiced among a the wider community
- 743 children have basic literacy skills, 53 percent of them girls,



and a desired behavioral change was brought about

- 230 children have joined various grade levels in the formal schools nearest their villages, 48 percent were girls
- the communities' attitude toward education is changing, they have collected funds to help sustain the project

#### EMRDA's Intervention in Afar Region

A need assessment conducted in one woreda of the region found:

- the native Afar educational enrollment rate is below 2 percent
- there is widespread practice of harmful traditional practices and poor environmental health
- under-developed agricultural practices

As a Muslim-oriented organization, EMRDA hopes to obtain wide popular support of the community and the government.

With project funds obtained from Action Aid and CRDA, EMRDA has started Alternative Basic Child Education Programs at 8 rural sites in Amibara woreda, enrolling more than 1150 children. With partnership of PACT Ethiopia, EMRDA has so far reached the semifinal level of the World Bank's annual Development Marketplace competition in 2001, with this innovative project to provide developmental education using participatory rural appraisal (PRA) dialogue techniques to address local problems with local solutions, thereby enabling 5000 adults to acquire basic literacy skills (reading and writing) in Amibara woreda. EMRDA is preparing to conduct an awareness creation workshop with 250 prominent and influential local individuals in the 6 woredas of zone 3 about harmful traditional practices, as well as civic education, conflict resolution, and project identification capacity building skills of traditional institutions. Lastly due to the deep and widespread socio-economic problems the region faces, EMRDA intends to do a great deal in the region by soliciting funds from various sources, both within the country and abroad.

#### NGO Profile : Development Action for Oromiya (DAO)

Development Action for Oromiya (DAO) is a voluntary, not-for-profit, independent and development-oriented indigenous

NGO. DAO was registered with the Ministry of Justice in December 1998 and signed an operation agreement with the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission of the Federal Government of Ethiopia. It is authorized to operate in Oromiya National State, which is the largest administrative region of the country with a population of more than 21.5 million. DAO aims to improve the life conditions of the under-privileged rural people of Oromiya through implementing self-initiated and self-help community-based participatory programs in:

Primary health care with special emphasis on HIV/AIDS control and preventions; Rural water development and sanitation programs; Environmental protection and conservation; Community economic empowerment with special emphasis on women through promotion of income generating schemes (by establishing savings and credit systems); Non-formal basic and civic education; and Animal husbandry and veterinary services.

All these programs, which comprise DAO's list of priorities are in line with the development efforts of the government. DAO seeks partners to support its project plans and welcomes volunteer expatriate experts who wish to work with the organization to carry out the programs and activities of DAO. DAO bears responsibility to facilitate formalities in Ethiopia for volunteers that generously contribute their share to help the poor. DAO has a partnership agreement with PACT - Ethiopia and has also signed the Code of Conduct for NGOs in Ethiopia. DAO has been implementing spring development activities in Chelliya District, with the support of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany. A nursery plantation site, where multipurpose tree seedlings are raised, also in Chelliya District, is supported by DED.

Development Action for Oromiya (DAO), Mr. Korme Lemmi, Executive Director, PO Box 21109 Code 1000

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

tel: 251 1 520404 / 05; e-mail: Devacor@yahoo.com

#### NGO: Adaptive Technologies Center for the Blind (ATCB)

"ATCB is not an organization speaking for the Blind; It is the Blind speaking for themselves."

ATCB was recently registered as an NGO in Ethiopia. ATCB seeks to address the situation of blind and visually impaired youth and adults in Addis Ababa by introducing and providing computer training and Braille transcribing services for blind people. ATCB aims to make the visually impaired people in Ethiopia - mainly students and office employees in private service centers - independent. Training is among the activities of ATCB, and procuring used or new equipment (computers, software and the like) is also among the organization's work.

Contact: Ato Bochu Sintayehu, General Secretary of ATCB, PO Box 80046, Addis Ababa ETHIOPIA

tel: 251 (0) 9 223327

AND : Ato Tamru Belay

e-mail: tamru@sympatico.ca

<http://www3.sympatico.ca/tamru>

#### NGO Profile : Save the Young Ethiopian Organization (SYEO)

Save the Young Ethiopian Organization (SYEO) is a new NGO working with the Addis Ababa Administration and the management of Woreda 14, Kebeles 07, 12, 13 and 17. Zone 5, Woreda 14 is located in the northern part of the city of Addis Ababa. The Woreda is one of the hubs of the city. SYEO is focused on skill and vocational training towards self-employment and family re-unification. To rectify the major problems of the target groups - prostitutes, youth and street children - identifying actual needs and possible solutions were found to be a cornerstone. These were discovered by a series of need assessment workshop carried out over three days in May 2000. The major aim of the workshop was to identify and prioritize the problems and possible solutions for children on the street, prostitutes and youth (specifically 12th grade complete and unemployed). Introductory meetings were made with Woreda 14 management, beneficiaries, Kebele management and InterAfrica Group's NGO Networking Service (an

information and support project, IAG is an African NGO based in Addis Ababa) to exchange ideas on how to facilitate the three-day need assessment.

The workshop was held 19-21 May 2000, including a day-long session with each group: prostitutes, youth and street children. Participating in the sessions of the workshop were 132 prostitutes, 154 youth and 159 street children.

Poverty, unemployment, orphanage and broken families were identified as the problems of the target groups. Skill and vocational training toward self-employment, attitude-change and family reunification were identified as possible solutions.

A copy of the report of the need assessment workshops is available by contacting NNS.

SYEO, Mr Assefa Gebremariam, PO Box 81213, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

tel. 251 1 117401

### **NGO Profile: MAECOT for the Handicapped**

MAECOT is a Ge'ez word meaning 'promise'. MAECOT, the organization, is an Ethiopian support and advocacy organization for handicapped people in Ethiopia. Based in Addis Ababa, MAECOT attempts to fill the void of organizations dedicated to supporting the self-sufficiency and positive visibility of handicapped people in the country. The organization was established in August 1997 by voluntary members.

MAECOT's publication, MEERAF, produced in Amharic and English, recently included further information on the situation of the disabled in seeking employment. Beyond the disability itself, a handicapped person is denied the opportunity to compete for training, employment and work experience. Awareness among employers about job adaptation and workplace environment contribute to the dominant attitude that discriminates against those with disabilities.

MAECOT advocates, among other strategies:

creating awareness among employers about the handicapped and their contributions to the job market;

an information network, including a database of employers and jobs, jobseekers and training opportunities;

and placement and follow-up services.

MAECOT, Ms. Senait Abera, PO Box 101737, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia tel. 251 1 511956  
e-mail in care of  
iag@telecom.net.et (please note MAECOT c/o NNS in the subject line)

### **ECDC – Ethiopian Community Development Council, Inc.**

<http://www.ecdcinternational.org/htmlfiles/books.html>

E-mail: [ecdc@erols.com](mailto:ecdc@erols.com)

#### **Educational Development**

Today, most institutions of higher learning in Ethiopia are faced with the problem of making educational resources accessible to the rising number of students enrolled in their programs. The shortage of textbooks and other educational materials makes it extremely difficult for these institutions to fulfill their mission of educating Ethiopia's next generation of doctors, lawyers, nurses, civil servants, teachers, and businessmen. ECDC's Educational Development program is an ongoing effort that collects, ships, and distributes donated books and educational materials to institutions of higher learning throughout Ethiopia. This program represents an important resource in helping educational institutions and grass-roots organizations rebuild and strengthen their capacity to serve members of their communities throughout the country. The program enables administrators, faculty, and students the opportunity to increase their competence and knowledge base. It also allows institutions of higher learning to use their limited resources for needs other than the purchase of textbooks.

Registered in 1992 as an NGO, ECDC works with Ethiopia's Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission (DPPC) in Addis Ababa in carrying out this project. Since 1993, ECDC has shipped 139,832 books valued at U.S. \$4,021,848 to Ethiopia and distributed them to 65 institutions and regional agencies.

Funding support for this program is derived from the public and private sectors. Partners include individual and institutional donors, including Books for Africa, The

Brother's Brother Foundation, the International Book Project, Project Hope Project, and U.S. AID's Ocean Freight Program. If you would like to receive additional information about ECDC's Educational Development program, would like to donate books, or know of a college/university library, or organization that could donate books or educational materials, please call ECDC's Executive Director at (703) 685-0510 or contact us via E-Mail.

### **Der Überblick**

Postfach 305590

20317 Hamburg

e-mail: [ueberblick@t-online.de](mailto:ueberblick@t-online.de)

[www.der-ueberblick.de](http://www.der-ueberblick.de)

Ausgabe 3/2001, S. 49 - 52

"Wir betteln nicht, wir verkaufen Projekte"

Die äthiopischen NGOs fühlen sich weniger von den Partnern im Norden gegängelt als von der eigenen Regierung.

Die meisten äthiopischen nichtstaatlichen Organisationen hängen von Geld aus dem Norden ab. Das heißt aber nicht, dass sie deshalb den Vorgaben ihrer Partner im Norden folgen. Viele haben gelernt, wie und an wen sie eine Idee "verkaufen" können, und können abschätzen, wie ein von den Gebern vorgeschlagenes Projekt an ihre eigenen, oft ganz anderen Prioritäten anzupassen ist. Schwieriger ist für sie der Umgang mit der eigenen Regierung. ...

### **Anwälte für das Volk**

Eine selbstbewusste NGO

Dass nichtstaatliche Organisationen (NGOs) in Entwicklungsländern sich durchaus nicht immer von Partnern aus dem Norden am Gängelband führen lassen, demonstriert in Äthiopien die "Action Professionals Association for the People" (A.P.A.P.) Diese NGO wurde 1993 von 5 Juristen gegründet. Sie mieteten ein Büro in Addis Ababa, statteten es mit eigenen Möbeln aus und erteilten dort ehrenamtlich und kostenlos Rechtsberatung für Menschen, die sich teure Rechtsanwälte nicht leisten konnten. Bald begannen sie, mit Gruppen wie

Abfallsammlern oder Prostituierten in den ärmeren Bezirken von Addis systematisch zu arbeiten. Sie schulten deren Mitglieder in Rechtsfragen und vertraten sie auch vor Gericht. Diese Arbeit hat internationale NGOs und einige Botschaften so beeindruckt, dass sie der A.P.A.P. Unterstützung anboten, was die Gruppe gerne annahm.

Bei der Regierung stieß diese Arbeit allerdings nicht auf Wohlwollen. Sie entzog der A.P.A.P. im Jahr 1995 die Registrierung. Ihr Direktor verlor wegen seiner Arbeit für die Organisation seine Anstellung an der Universität von Addis. Die Gruppe gab jedoch nicht auf und erreichte durch zähe Lobbyarbeit im Jahr 1997 ihre Wiederezulassung. Sie konzentrierte sich nun auf Anwaltschaft für die Beachtung von Menschenrechten. Bald konnte sie auch außerhalb der Hauptstadt wirken. Dort schulte sie nicht nur Vertreter lokaler NGOs in Rechtsfragen, sondern bot auch Gemeindevertretern und Beamten Fortbildung in den Themen Menschenrechte und Korruptionsbekämpfung an. Aus ihren Erfahrungen verfasste die A.P.A.P. schließlich eine Anleitung mit dem Titel "The Bells of Freedom" (Die Glocken der Freiheit).

Wie ihre Arbeit auszusehen hat, muss sich die A.P.A.P. nicht von Geldgebern aus dem Norden sagen lassen. Sie entwickelt völlig selbständig Drei-Jahres-Pläne für ihre Tätigkeit und lädt die Nord-NGOs auf ein von ihr gegründetes Geberforum ein, wo diese entscheiden können, wie sie sich an der Finanzierung beteiligen wollen. Die A.P.A.P. hat dafür einheitliche Musterverträge und ein einheitliches Berichtsformat entworfen. Bisher haben die Geber das auch akzeptiert. Heute wird die A.P.A.P. von den großen internationalen NGOs "Novib" aus den Niederlanden und dem schwedischen Zweig von "Save the Children" sowie einigen Botschaften unterstützt.

Berichte von  
Dr. Michaela von Freyhold, Professorin am Fachbereich Soziologie der Universität Bremen mit dem Schwerpunkt empirische Analysen von Entwicklungsprozessen in der Dritten Welt und  
Daniel Sahleyesus, der an seiner Dissertation über das Verhältnis

zwischen NGOs in Äthiopien und Partner-NGOs aus dem Norden arbeitet.

## NEWS

### **Taskforce established to promote community Radio in Horn**

Addis Ababa, January 11, 2002 (WIC) - The three day symposium on promoting community Radio in the Horn of Africa wound up today setting-up by a taskforce comprised of five members from four of the Horn of Africa countries. According to a resolution presented at the conclusion of the symposium the taskforce is charged with establishing network among the Horn countries to work to realize community radios. The resolution indicated that there is a need to establish sensitization and lobbying groups at regional levels and through the Inter Governmental Agency for Development (IGAD) at the regional level. The resolution noted that community radios could play a pivotal role to resolve the raging conflicts in the Horn by creating venues for community elders to come up with indigenous knowledge of settling conflicts. It said that community radio which should be owned by the community should be able to entertain issues of concern to a certain community thereby promoting cultural diversity and vernacular languages. "The community Radio, which is primarily rural media, is a necessity for illiterate and scattered rural community during the age of information revolution," it added. It said at this particular time when the Horn countries engaged in the preparation of poverty reduction strategy paper, community radios could be instrumental to articulate the voice and choice of inaccessible rural poor. The resolution said raising the awareness of parliamentarians and other decision-making bodies was important to realize broadcasting legislation which would be instrumental to establish community radios.

### **Discussion Underway On PRSP In Most Of Ethiopia's States**

Addis Ababa, January 07, 2002 (WIC)- Public discussion are being conducted at the Woreda level on the government's Poverty Reduction Strategic paper (PRSP) in most of Ethiopia's Regional States. The discussions are being held in 116 districts regarded to be representative, said the Poverty Reduction Strategy preparation office of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development. The office indicated that three documents have been prepared and distributed to each of the districts to facilitate maximum popular participation in the discussions. According to the office, the discussions have been conducted with at most transparency, and have been witnessed by representatives of the diplomatic community, international creditors and donor organizations and UN agencies. The office said that representatives of the World Bank have expressed their appreciation to the attention given by the Ethiopia government in the preparation of a comprehensive PRSP and in ensuring the participation of Stake holders in the process.

### **Association Supports Street Children in Dessie**

Dessie, January 06, 2002 (WIC) - The Dessie Branch of the Friends of Street Children Association-Ethiopia is providing support to street children and their parents in the town as part of the effort to help them over come the economic problems they face. Ato Getachew Demissie, Branch Head, said the Association has in the course of last year, given a 700 birr credit to each of the 150 mothers of street children in nine kebeles the town. The women were selected from among single parents who are in dire economic conditions and have to bear the burden of having to cater for their children. The Association has also been sponsoring more than 800 children who can't attend formal schooling attend informal education, Getachew said. The Branch has further carried out the construction of a library and five public lavatories as well as the renovation of two primary schools, mostly providing service to the

under served section of the residents in the town.

## **Opposition Parties Boycott Elections in South Ethiopia**

4.1.2002 Addis Tribune

Two Opposition Parties boycotted Kebele council elections held last Sunday (December 30, 2001) in the Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples' Regional State saying their members and supporters have been harassed, imprisoned, beaten and had their properties expropriated by cadres and members of the ruling party. The parties, namely, the council of Alternative Forces for Peace and Democracy in Ethiopia and the Southern Ethiopia Peoples' Democratic Coalition also said the Zonal and Woreda councils election held the previous week on Sunday December 23, 2001 should be declared null and void. The parties in a statement said their members were issued with their candidature identity cards only one day before the election day and their names were not announced as candidates while some of the names were cancelled from the list. The parties said their members and supporters who took part in the Woreda and Zonal election have been harassed by cadres of EPRDF. The parties accused the National Electoral Board for failing to check whether voter registration, candidature announcement and polling were done in a manner required by the electoral law. In many polling stations, cadres of EPRDF and Kebele administrations were assigned by the Board as election executives against the demand by the parties for the appointment of independent election executives, the statement said. The parties also said that some members who won the elections conducted two years ago have been extra judicially imprisoned despite their right of immunity enshrined in the constitution.

## **Authority says Illegal Tree Felling Threatening Ethiopia's Eco System**

Addis Ababa, December 30, 2001 (WIC) - The Environment Protection Authority raises the alarm over the massive depletion of virgin forests in the Oromya and South Ethiopia Nations, Nationalities and Peoples'

Regional States, both of which are home to most of such forests in Ethiopia. Citing a study conducted four years ago, Ato Getachew Eshete, Head of the Eco-System Department of the Authority, said over 1.2 million hectares of virgin forest have been cleared in the two states in the period between 1980 to 1997. Getachew said as a result of this unchecked tree felling, a third of the total area of the land covered by virgin forest has been cleared in the South Ethiopia Nations Nationalities and Peoples' Regional State during the period. In Oromiya 16.7 percent of this type of forest are no more, he added. According to the Head, increase in population and the concurrent increase in demand for wood, investment activities, and low level of capacity of institutions charged to properly administer protected forest lands, were among the main factors that have resulted in this situation. The unchecked tree felling is a major threat to Ethiopia's eco system, Getachew warned and called for a coordinated action by relevant Federal and Regional organs to prevent the impending ecological disaster. In the last 17 years, 2.5 million hectares of forestland was cleared in Ethiopia, he indicated.

## **ARCCH says E.U endorsed financing restoration of Lalibela Rock-Hewn Church**

Addis Ababa, December 28, 2001 (WIC) - The Authority for Research and Conservation of Cultural Heritages (ARCCH) said the financing proposal for the main phase of planned support for the restoration of the Lalibela Rock-Hewn Churches which was submitted to the European Development Fund Committee has received the unanimous approval of the European Union Member States on December 13th in Brussels. It said the European Commission is expected to authorize its Financing Decision, in due course. According to a Press Release by the Authority, the originally foreseen support of roughly 30 million Birr has been more than doubled with additionally attracted provisions. The forthcoming European aid intended for Lalibela is presently reassessed at 75 million ETB it said. According to the release, an

international architect competition to Design Shelter for Five Lalibela Rock-Hewn Churches was launched with an Italian company called "TEPRIN ASSOCIATI" which won and presented the blue print of the work design. Among the 11 Rock-Hewn Lalibela Churches, which were cut out of natural rocks 800 years back, Bete Medhanealem, Bete Mariam, Bete Amanuel, Bete Aba Libanos and Bete Meskel are included in the project, the release pointed out.

## **EHRCO Dispatches 230 Observers for Sunday's Election in The South**

Addis Tribune (Addis Ababa) December 24, 2001

The Ethiopian Human Rights Council (EHRCO) dispatched 230 independent observers to examine the woreda and zonal council elections at the Southern Regional State Scheduled to take place on Sunday. According to Menag Mulu-Alem, EHRCO representative, the observers were recruited from the civil society, mainly elders, scholars, women and youths. They are not members of political parties, according to Menag. He further stated that the observers would be involved in none of the election procedure except a close scrutiny of the election. The observers have been given a daylong seminar in the region's capital Awassa about the proceedings of the election and basic ethics of an observer, Menag added. Meanwhile, two of the parties namely the Ethiopian Democratic Party (EDP) and the Sidama Liberation Movement (SLM) representatives have said a forum for debate among the political parties should have been organized before the elections. Netsanet Demelash, EDP, Awassa representative and Yilma Chamola, Chairman of the SLM, said the debate would have created an opportunity for the public to know the contending parties. W/ro Konjit Getahun, the Sidama Zone Election Board Organizer, however, said the board has no responsibility to organize a fair debates among the opposition parties. The main responsibility of the board, according to her, is to "supervise whether the election is free and fair."

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## **Church Undertaking Close to Two Million Birr Development Projects**

Addis Ababa, December 21, 2001 (WIC)-

The Alem-tena Catholic Church in Dugadabora Woreda of East Shewa zone of Oromia State is undertaking various integrated development projects with an outlay of close to 2 million birr this Ethiopian year. Project Coordinator with the Church, Ato Mezgebu Korsu told reporters during on site visit to the projects yesterday that the projects focused on ensuring primary health care, basic education provision and sinking of potable water wells. He said the projects were undertaken through Fund secured from the Catholic Relief Service (CRS) Ethiopia programme, the International Catholic Sisters Association and the local people. The Church was offering basic education to children and adults in two schools it constructed in cooperation with the local people, he said. During the field trip the children told reporters that they were lucky that they were attending school at their doorsteps while doing other businesses, until they were able to attend schools in areas further away. The students would join grade four after three years of school in their area. The Church had also sunk three water wells in three kebeles of the Woreda. It also installed grain mill and constructed model houses to demonstrate clean residential houses to promote maternal health to the people in the localities.

## **Lack of Sufficient Power, High Energy Quality Slackening Socio-Economic Development of the Country**

Addis Ababa, December 14, 2001 (WIC)- The goal of improving the socio-economic well being of the nation in general and the rural residents in particular is highly constrained by lack of sufficient power and high quality energy, the Ethiopian Rural Energy Development and Promotion Center said. Social Economic and Statistics Team Leader with the Center, Ephrem Hassen said the over 10 million Ethiopian households found in rural areas have very little or no access to

modern energy services which he said have contributed to backwardness of the country. He said the country was spending 35% of its foreign currency earning on importation of petroleum fuels due to lack of efficient alternative source of energy in the country. He said the Center in collaboration with the Forestry Research Institute has launched the development of short term fuel wood afforestation project since 1999 with the view to providing additional biomass fuels which is the main source of energy in particularly rural Ethiopia. He said the eucalyptus globulus and Accacia Decurvenca tree species that were planted in different ecological zones of Holeta, Harar and Arbaminch towns were now ready for use as source of energy. He said after conducting study on their energy value, the trees would be distributed to farmers for plantation.

He meanwhile said that the Center in line with the country's energy policy has designed a plan of action aimed at mitigating Green House Gas (GHG) emission and creation of an enabling environment for the development of environment friendly energy sources and technologies which also meets the development needs of the rural population of Ethiopia. He also said priority will be given to efficiency (demand side management), conversion efficiency, fuel substitution and development of database for increased access on energy environment related area. The Center was also offering technical assistance to regional States in improving energy supply, he said, adding that investors, who would like to engage in provision of electric light could also get necessary information from the Center. Only 11 per cent of the population of the country has access to electricity and of the total of 927 towns only 48 percent are electrified, it was learnt.

## **The House of Peoples' Representatives has approved a 200-birr minimum wage for employees in the civil service.**

Monitor - November 5, 2001

The House endorsed over 280 million birr in supplementary budget to cover the additional

government expenditure ensuing from the salary adjustment. The adjustment was approved on Tuesday, after the House took note of the rising cost of living in Ethiopia and the increasing number of civil servants quitting to seek better paying jobs in the private sector. The new minimum wage will go into effect beginning January. The current minimum wage in the civil service is 105 birr.

## **NGOs to Propose for the Inclusion of Sectoral Dev't Issues**

The Daily Monitor (Addis Ababa) September 21, 2001

More than 20 NGOs that are working in Ethiopia announced yesterday that they are preparing to propose strategies for the inclusion of sectoral development issues in the final Poverty Reduction Strategies Paper (PRSP) of the country. Speaking at the opening of the two-day workshop at Ghion Hotel, Ato Kebede Asrat, Executive Director of CIDA said that the involvement of NGOs in the country's PRSP would serve as a suitable opportunity to draw strategies for NGOs' participation in government PRSP consultation. Kebede said that among the issues the NGOs want to include in the discussion are HIV/AIDS, health, agriculture and natural resources, children and youth, urban development, education, gender, water and paternalism. "Since NGOs are working more closely with the poor, their involvement in poverty reduction will have its own advantage to make the national PRSP as comprehensive and as effective as possible," said Kebede. He also said that the NGO perspective is currently being developed by an NGO PRSP Task Force. The NGOs hope recognition will be given to issues which have not had sufficient coverage in the first PRSP. Kebede indicated that giving considerations to the issues raised by the NGOs will contribute to the strengthening of civil society institutions' participation in the development processes in Ethiopia. The workshop which was organized by CRDA brought more than 50 participants representing various NGOs. Copyright © 2001 The Daily Monitor (allAfrica.com)

## Äthiopien bestraft Landflucht von Ärzten

Kurznachrichten aus "Der Überblick", Ausgabe 3/2001, S. 112

Äthiopien geht rechtlich gegen Ärzte vor, die die Provinzen verlassen, um in den Städten besser bezahlte Stellen anzunehmen. Bereits 6 Mediziner sollen wegen Pflichtverletzung unter Anklage gestellt worden sein. Ein Sprecher des Gesundheitsministeriums sagte, es sei unverantwortlich, dass sich Mediziner, deren Ausbildung der Staat finanziert habe, aus der Verantwortung stehlen wollen. Die Regierung deutete aber an, Anreize wie Gehaltserhöhungen und Zuschüsse für das medizinische Fachpersonal in Erwägung zu ziehen. Äthiopien ist eines der ärmsten Länder der Welt. Auf 100.000 Einwohner kamen - so der neueste UN-Bericht für die menschliche Entwicklung - von 1992 bis 1995 lediglich 4 Ärzte und 8 Krankenschwestern.

Die Ausgabe Dez. 2001 des EED info widmet sich ausführlich der Situation in Eritrea. Der 1. Beitrag beleuchtet die schwierige innenpolitische Lage, die derzeit von heftigen Auseinandersetzungen zwischen Regierung und Opposition gekennzeichnet ist. Der 2. Aufsatz beziffert die Schäden und die volkswirtschaftlichen Einbußen nach dem Krieg mit Äthiopien und informiert über den Stand der internationalen Hilfsbemühungen. Herausgegeben von der "Arbeitsstelle Frieden und Konfliktbearbeitung (Afrika)" im Auftrag des Evangelischen Entwicklungsdienstes und Brot für die Welt, Ulrich-von-Hassell-Str. 76, 53123 Bonn, E-Mail: arbeitsstelle.frieden@eed.de; Tel.: 0228-8101-2104; Fax: 0228-8101-160

## Wegweiser "Konfliktbearbeitung in Deutschland"

Der Wegweiser enthält eine Zusammenstellung von 95 Organisationen mit den Schwerpunkten Asyl / Migration, Umwelt, Frieden, Rassismus / Antisemitismus, Gleichstellung sowie Menschen-, Bürger- und Grundrechte und kann kostenlos angefordert werden bei der Arbeitsstelle Friedensforschung,

Beethovenallee 4, 53173 Bonn,  
E-Mail: [afb@priub.org](mailto:afb@priub.org), Internet:  
[www.priub.org](http://www.priub.org)

<http://www.whatsupaddis.com/>  
What's Up: A monthly newsletter from Addis Ababa (December 2001)

### BISHANGARI - ETHIOPIA'S FIRST ECOLODGE OPENS

Few destinations in Ethiopia offer a glimpse of nature as untouched as Bishangari, 235 kms south of Addis Ababa. A peaceful natural reserve on the shore of Lake Langano, Bishangari encompasses 5 major ecological zones : beaches, wetlands, acacia scrub, dry pumice rock and dense natural forest, home to over 300 species of birds and diverse wildlife.

This serene, isolated haven is the setting for Bishangari Lodge, Ethiopia's first environmentally sound retreat. Constructed almost exclusively from natural materials, Bishangari Lodge boasts an environmentally sound bio-gas plant for recycling waste into energy, an open-air restaurant covered by thick trees, a semi-circular tree-bar constructed around a majestic old fig tree and nine fully-equipped bungalows, with private bathrooms and verandahs. Each bungalow is set apart in thick foliage and faces the lake, ensuring complete privacy. Ethiopian décor and craftsmanship have been used throughout to enhance the natural setting. A wide variety of activities is catered for, ranging from kayaking to bird watching, and excursions into the nearby forest or to destinations further afield are also on offer. (And for those who may need the odd contact with the outside world, telephone, fax and Internet facilities are also available for all lodge guests!)

For more information about this peaceful sanctuary, contact:

Ecolodge

Tel: 62 71 60/62 09 24

Fax: 62 08 28

P.O. Box 5790

Addis Ababa Ethiopia

Email: [ecolodge@telecom.net.et](mailto:ecolodge@telecom.net.et)

Volume 4, Issue 11 / Cheshvan,  
5762 / November 2001

### Science Enrichment for Ethiopian-Israeli Teens

By Simon Griver

Ovadia Balai, 14, said that being chosen for the Weizmann Institute

program gave him a real boost. "I've always wanted to be a professional soccer player, but I guess I'm going to have to compromise and be a high-tech executive." Balai is one of 52 eighth grade students chosen to take part in a special science program for Ethiopian-Israeli teenagers. The multi-year program, which began in October at the Weizmann Institute of Science, was initiated and is funded by the Jewish Agency and the UJA Federation of New York. A similar program was launched at the Technion in Haifa last year, for 9th graders, which has already helped many Ethiopian-born students begin fulfilling their potential. The new Weizmann Institute targets 8th grade pupils, thus offering an additional year of enrichment.

Balai immigrated to Israel with his parents from Ethiopia's Gondar province five years ago. He lives with his family in Lod. "The first time I heard about this course was when one of my teachers called me in for a meeting," he recounted. "I thought I was going to be reprimanded for something. But I was told I'd been chosen to attend the Weizmann program. It gave me a great boost. My friends have been very envious." Talented youngsters learn what makes things tick at a special scientific enrichment program initiated by the Jewish Agency and the UJA Federation of New York. The year-long program of technological and scientific enrichment will bring the children - from Yavne, Rishon LeZion, Lod, Ramle and Beer Yaakov -- to the Weizmann Institute once a week in the afternoon for tuition in all disciplines from math, biology, chemistry and physics. Classes are taught by the prestigious academy's postgraduate students. Tutors will come to the pupils' schools on an additional afternoon each week. Some 78 talented youngsters were initially brought to a four day summer camp at the Weizmann Institute several months ago. Of these, 52 were chosen by their schools to participate in the program.

Kobi Zena, age 22, is the program coordinator. He immigrated to Israel in 1989 from Ethiopia. He is a law student at the Rishon LeZion College of Management. Among the parents at the opening ceremony of the Weizmann Institute program was Shai Demose from Lod whose son



Yaakov was taking part in the program. "We are very grateful," he said, "and I am sure that our children will make the most of this opportunity." Yael Bentzon and David Avram find that the study of scientific subjects satisfies their curiosity. Other children taking part in the course include Yael Bentzon, 13, from Rishon LeZion who immigrated to Israel from Ethiopia five years ago. "I'm not sure if I want to work in science," she said. "But I love learning the subject. It's fascinating seeing what makes things tick." 14 year old David Avram from Rehovot who immigrated in 1992 expressed similar sentiments. "I've always loved taking things apart," he said. "Science satisfies my curiosity."

## Ethiopian Doctors

<http://ethioguide.com/aa-ethioguide/ethioguide/eg-news.htm> (search >>doctors)

Sun, 13 Aug 2000

Why More and More Ethiopian Doctors are Working Abroad

It was a typical Sunday afternoon at a friend's house in Addis -good food, good company, a bunch of hostesses, two pilots and one medical doctor. I zeroed in on him. What is it like to be a physician in Ethiopia?

It's been 13 years since the doctor, whom I will call Menelik, graduated from medical school. There were 55 graduates in his batch. Only about 25 now remain in the country. About 15 are in the US and the others are in various countries around the world including a number of African countries such as South Africa, Botswana, Ivory Coast and Rwanda. In those African countries Ethiopian doctors can make about \$3,000 USD a month. Medical school education is fully subsidized by the Ethiopian Government. Menelik estimated that about 50 percent of Ethiopia's doctors leave to work in other countries. In 1995, the latest year figures are available for, there were 1020 doctors in Addis Ababa, 1,189 in other urban centers, and 469 in rural areas, according to the Ministry of Health. In a country of 60 million people, there are a total of 89 hospitals, 9920 beds, 191 health centers and 2,470 health centers. (See table below.)

According to the Ethiopian Economic Association, there is one hospital bed for every 6,000

people in Ethiopia, a ratio that is four times greater than the average for sub-Saharan Africa (1 bed per 1,600 people.) I thought Menelik would be bitter that so many of his fellow medical school graduates had left a country in such dire need of trained medical professionals. But he was surprisingly understanding. "If they can't even buy a change of shirt, support their families, how can you blame them?" he said. "The government does not place priority on health, as it does on, say, defense.

Menelik said he earns 2,400 Birr (less than \$300 USD) a month as a government physician who teaches at Addis Ababa University as an assistant professor. That is after specialization in surgery and another year of training in Israel in pediatrics surgery. Menelik's main financial source is a polyclinic he owns with four other people. They treat about 1,000 patients a month. He said doctors had to fight to be able to also work in clinics because there is a law in the Ethiopian constitution that says that government doctors cannot work in private clinics, and that judges cannot be lawyers. "There is a clear conflict of interest with judges being lawyers, but not with government doctors working in private clinics," Menelik said. Until a few years ago, doctors had to choose, so they chose to work in private clinics in droves. So the government told them that it would not change the law, but that there would be an understanding that they could work in both places.

Source: Policy and Human Resource Development Project, Ethiopia

Study: Access to and supply of health facilities and services, Addis Ababa, September 1996

## Literaturempfehlungen

### Mit wachsender Begeisterung Evangelische Christen in Äthiopien

Henning Uzar

Ev.-luth. Missionswerk in Niedersachsen - Hermannsburg 1998

ISBN 3-87546-115-0

Nach dem Ende der Militärdiktatur hat sich in Äthiopien ein wahrer Aufbruch der Kirche vollzogen - ganz im Sinne biblischer Befreiungsüberlieferungen. Wer heute in der Mekane-Yesus-Kirche an einem der überfüllten Gottesdienste teilnimmt, wird angesteckt von der Begeisterung einer jungen Gemeinde. Diese Begeisterung ist das Auffälligste an der beständig wachsenden evangelischen Christenheit in Äthiopien. Die 25 Artikel zeigen Bilder einer dynamischen Kirche und entfalten eine Fülle von Einblicken in die Wirklichkeit missionarischen Dienstes und Lebens unter Menschen einer fremden Kultur. Die über 20 Autorinnen und Autoren vereint das leidenschaftliche Bemühen, den christlichen Glauben auf ganzheitliche Weise weiterzugeben, und das Ringen darum, die Empfänger der Botschaft zu achten und zu verstehen.

Region	Hospitals	Beds	Health Center	Health Stations
Tigray	12	860	14	141
Afa	2	60	4	34
Amhara	11	1289	45	444
Oromia	25	2293	63	845
Somali	3	255	7	66
Benishangui	2	254	4	69
SENNP	9	816	34	424
Gambella	1	95	3	34
Harari	5	735	-	5
Dire Dawa	3	247	1	18
Addis Abeba	16	3016	16	390
Total	89	9920	191	2470

**Distribution of Health Facilities by Region in Ethiopia**

discussed by the outside world. Beyond Aksum, Lalibela, and the Blue Nile Falls are places, ruins, and sights seldom exposed to the world at large, John Graham's Ethiopia: Off the Beaten Trail takes you to these unseen gems.

[www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com):

#### 1) **Faraway Home**

by Jane Kurtz, E.B. Lewis (Illustrator), Anne Davies (Editor)  
Price: \$12.80  
Reading level: Ages 4-8  
School & Library Binding - 32 pages (March 2000)  
Harcourt; ISBN: 0152000364  
Editorial Reviews  
From Booklist

Like Allen Say's Grandfather's Journey (1993), this picture book captures the immigrant experience when generations live far apart and even happy family life is mixed with longing for "back home." Kurtz tells it from the point of view of Desta, a young African American girl whose father must return "home" to Ethiopia to visit his sick mother. Desta can't bear the parting, and as Daddy holds her close and tells her stories of his childhood, she comes to know how hard it is for him to be parted from the place and people he left behind. Occasionally, the writing is self-consciously poetic about "glimmering" sadness, but both the words and the pictures are wonderfully specific about the particular place Desta's father remembers. There are no generic images of "steamy Africa." Lewis' stunning, realistic watercolors move from loving close-ups of father and daughter inside their comfortable house to double-page spreads of the Ethiopian countryside, where the pink cloud of flamingos ripples up from the lake and the hyenas, "strange coughing cry" can be heard in the night. The pictures show Desta rooted in her local American school and neighborhood; it's also clear that her father's images enrich her life here, even as she longs for his return.  
Hazel Rochman

#### 2) **Country Review, Ethiopia 1998/1999**

by Robert C. Kelly (Editor), Debra Ewing (Editor), Stanton Doyle (Editor), Denise Youngblood (Editor)  
Price: \$39.95

Paperback - 60 pages (December 1, 1998)

Commercial Data International, Inc.; ISBN: 1583100695

Book Description

Commercial Data International's (CDI) Country Reviews are concise, up-to-date sources for political and economic information on the 190 nations defined by the U.S. State Department as Independent States of the World, plus Serbia and Montenegro. In addition, data on Hong Kong and Taiwan are included in the Country Review for China.

Each Country Review begins with an overview which provides key demographic and geographic information as well as full color regional and country maps by Magellan Geographix. Government and political information is provided in a format which enables the Reader to get an overview of the organization of the various branches of the government, a brief summary of current political conditions, and a list of current leaders, including a biography of the head of government/state. Economic information, compiled and condensed from a large number of reliable sources, is presented in the Country Reviews in statistical tables on key macroeconomic trends and economic sectors. The economic data is organized in an easy-to-understand format. Foreign investment conditions are also covered along with a capsule description of stock market trends, for those countries where major stock markets exist, a listing of key enterprises. Also included is a summary of current environmental issues, natural hazards, international environmental agreements, and, for most countries, a table with time trends in Greenhouse Gas emissions.

#### **Aus dem Internet:**

Im Archiv der beiden Zeitschriften sind zahlreiche Beiträge über Äthiopien zu finden.

<http://www.der-ueberblick.de>

E-mail:

[redaktion@derueberblick.de](mailto:redaktion@derueberblick.de)

Redaktion der überblick

Postfach 30 55 90

20317 Hamburg

<http://www.oneworld.at/suedwind.magazin/start.asp>

#### **Shama Books**

P.O.Box 8153

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Telephone: 251-1-553959

Fax: 251-1-551010;

E-mail:

[Shamabooks@telecom.net.et](mailto:Shamabooks@telecom.net.et)

#### 1) **Ethiopian Journeys: Travels in Ethiopia 1969-72**

by Paul Henze

[amazon.com](http://amazon.com) - Price: \$25.00

Paperback - 287 pages  
(September 7, 2001)

Shama Books; ISBN:  
1931253102

Book Description

Ethiopia has always had a special fascination for travellers, but until the early part of the twentieth century much of the country was inaccessible to all but the hardest adventurers. In this exciting book Paul Henze evokes the last years of what some might call a golden age, before the turmoil which engulfed Ethiopia in 1974. From Wollo, Tigre, Arussi, and the Semiens, to Harar, Bale, and Gojjam, Ethiopian Journeys explores the width and breadth of this illusive country. Out of print for almost twenty-five years, this edition has a new introduction and includes new images in what has become a modern classic in Ethiopian travel literature.

#### 2) **Ethiopia: Off the Beaten Trail**

by John Graham

[amazon.com](http://amazon.com) - Price: \$25.00

Paperback - 342 pages  
(September 7, 2001)

Shama Books; ISBN:  
1931253110

Book Description

Ethiopia is a country of endless stories and histories, many never heard outside this elusive country. John Graham has tirelessly traversed Ethiopia, and explored many nooks and crannies of this ancient land. From the China Road to the most remote mountain monastery Mr Graham has visited and documented those parts of Ethiopia rarely seen or

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Informationsdienst für  
Entwicklungspolitik  
Laudongasse 40, 1080 Wien  
Tel. 405 55 15; Fax: 405 55 19

## Heißer Tip für Internet Surfer

### [www.anythingonethiopia.com](http://www.anythingonethiopia.com)

ist ein tolles Portal für Äthiopien - Interessierte. Da gibt's aktuelle Nachrichten und Kommentare zu den unterschiedlichsten Bereichen, Einkaufsangebote, Musik, Links und offensichtlich auch einen Chat-Raum (nein, kein Chat zum kauen!)

Der Clou ist aber, daß dort ein Link gelegt ist, sodaß man über Internet das aktuelle Amharische Programm der "Deutschen Welle" hören kann. Und auch "Voice of America" ist dort zu hören: [www.anythingonethiopia.com/aoe/d/home.asp#](http://www.anythingonethiopia.com/aoe/d/home.asp#)

## One Book for Dire Dawa Initiative, 27 Nov. 2001

Girma Hailu  
girmahb@hotmail.com  
[www.msnhomepages.talkcity.com/librarylawn/Sidad53/TFDD.html](http://www.msnhomepages.talkcity.com/librarylawn/Sidad53/TFDD.html)

The Dire Dawa Trust Fund (DDTF) is a local association legally established in June 2001 by friends of Dire Dawa. The objective of the Association is to support development efforts in Dire Dawa through catalytic interventions in the areas of education, health, community, sports, culture and environment. DDTF is just a group of volunteer individuals / professionals / business men who have good will and expertise that may somehow be useful and contribute to this reasonable cause. Last September, DDTF gave the first award of excellence for education (certificate and local leather bag / brief case) for students that scored 4 straight As, about 23 of them 3 female and 20 male hard working students. This is the first time (23 / 4s) in the long history of

Dire Dawa. In addition, we also wanted to encourage the schools that contributed to this commendable achievement and hence gave them a thank you certificate as well. Next year, DDTF will recognize and award the best teacher and head master in Dire Dawa for the first time -- an award that will continue every three years. We are designing selection parameters and modalities of panels to be involved.

DDTF now wants also to strengthen the knowledge base in Dire Dawa by making learning and teaching resources available for teachers and students. The mechanism the Board approved is through the "ONE BOOK FOR DIRE DAWA INITIATIVE". The Board of Directors decided to make the first purchase of books and send to Dire Dawa Central Public Library -- a recently established reading center with little books for a population of about 350,000. DDTF's appeal is that any volunteer could purchase and send a book directly to the reading center covering all cost by self. We are kindly asking everybody to support this initiative and also if possible, provide us with address of individuals and / or organizations which may do so. The following is an indicative list of Books that may be of help for Dire Dawa.

High School: maths, english grammar / dictionary, physics, chemistry, biology, geograh, history, home economics.

College level: agriculture, biochemistry, college mathematics, english, sociology, law, psychology, philosophy, accounting, management, banking, marketing, secretarial sciences, etc.

The address to send to is:

Education and Culture  
Department, Public Central  
Library  
P.O.Box 232, Dire Dawa, Ethiopia

## Nachrichten

Auszüge aus: ETHIOPIA Seven  
Days Update

Waag Communications News Digest  
Service Addis Ababa

zusammengestellt von Harmen  
Storck

### 1. Conflict with Eritrea

### Deployment of UN Mission on Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE):

The United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) disclosed that Eritrean Defense Forces (EDF) had detained a team of UN military observers near Assab port. Speaking to journalists at a press conference in Addis Ababa, the deputy spokeswoman of UNMEE, Angela Walker, said that the detained were released two and-a-half hours later after their release was negotiated with the EDF. She did not indicate the number of detained observers and the reasons that led to their detention by the EDF. Walker also said that UNMEE patrol has continued to face restrictions of freedom of movement in the central sector and in the areas adjacent to the northern areas of the Temporary Security Zone (*Daily Monitor*, Nov. 10-11).

### Border and Compensation Commission :

The Ethiopian Democratic Union (EDU) has said that the International Court of Justice at The Hague, expected to resolve the current Ethio-Eritrean problems next February, should consider a number of issues to arbitrate on behalf of Ethiopia. Ethiopia's claims should not be limited only to Badme, Shiraro, Zalambessa, Alitena and Bure. These areas, it said, were gained through the sacrifices of Ethiopia's children. It said that the EPRDF government should also include Shelalo and Sheshebit as Ethiopian territory since there is evidence to prove this. Ethiopia should also demand the port of Assab as its rightful outlet to the sea, EDU stated (*Mebrek*, Dec. 27).

The Ethio-Eritrea border issue will get a final ruling late in February next year, a spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced. During its stay in The Hague, the Ethiopian Ethiopian delegation led by Foreign Minister Seyoum Mesfin made a strong presentation on Ethiopia's border claim based on the documents presented earlier. During his presentation, Foreign Minister Seyoum made it clear that Ethiopia's border claim was justified and that the areas claimed by Eritrea were Ethiopian territory administered by Ethiopia. The spokesperson said that given the tangible and detailed proofs

presented by Ethiopia, there was firm belief that the final ruling would ensure Ethiopia's national interest. The final ruling will be disclosed in written form and on maps after which the delineation process will start, the spokesperson said (*Radio Ethiopia, Dec. 24*).

Five opposition political organizations plan to appeal to the United Nations concerning the need to include Ethiopia's right to access to the sea and the issue of the Afars in the Ethio-Eritrean peace agreement. The five organizations are the Council for Alternative Forces for Peace and Democracy (CAFPDE) in Ethiopia, the Ethiopian Democratic Party (EDP), the Ethiopian Democratic Union and the Oromo Peoples' Congress. In a statement it said the EPRDF has not submitted to the Border Commission any demand to have access to the sea. It did not also raise the issue of the right of the Afar people to own Assab (*Tobia, Dec. 20*).

Foreign Minister Seyoum Mesfin said that Ethiopia expects the Border Commission, charged with the task of demarcating the border between Eritrea and Ethiopia, will rule only on the basis of international laws and treaties as stated in the Algiers Peace Accord. Ato Seyoum said that the Eritrean government had chosen to depend on maps prepared by colonial Italy and those prepared by the Ethiopian Government to justify its claims of territory. - However, he added, the maps that had been prepared by Italy, when Eritrea was its colony, reflect the unilateral interest of the colonial power, and could not serve as an authorized international boundary. Concerning maps prepared by successive Ethiopian governments, Ato Seyoum said they were not only duplications of the maps of colonial Italy but that they had also served as internal administrative borders with Eritrea as an integral part of Ethiopia. Ethiopia holds to international laws and the treaties it signed with Italy in 1900, 1902 and 1908 to support its position, Ato Seyoum said (*Radio Ethiopia, Dec. 19*).

The Eritrean Foreign Minister has said that the Eritrea-Ethiopia border commission will give its final verdict on the demarcation of the disputed border line in

February 2002. Ali Sayyid Abdallah told that the verdict would grant no right of appeal and would therefore be binding. The border commission, which is made up of five representatives (two nominated by either side and one neutral member) is due to hold a meeting in the Hague, Netherlands, the second week of December. The body is charged with achieving a resolution of the demarcation of the contested border which led Ethiopia and Eritrea to fight a two-year war (*IRIN, Dec. 3*).

#### Ethiopians there, Eritreans here:

The UN Security Council has called on Ethiopia and Eritrea to immediately release all the war and civilian prisoners they are holding. The Council also urged both countries to provide the necessary humanitarian assistance to the prisoners without any discrimination as to their background. It also asked both sides to build a bridge of mutual cooperation (*VOA, Jan. 18*).

#### Mobilisation, Tensions:

The government has issued a new circular to kebele administrations requiring any Ethiopian who completed 6th grade and above and between the ages of 18 to 25 to register for military conscription. The new directive has been officially posted in some kebeles. The directive says volunteers would be paid up to 600 birr in salary. Observers said the EPRDF government has been forced to raise the salary scale of the would-be soldiers in order to attract more conscripts, as it is now desperate for more soldiers to meet the challenges of war on two fronts - Eritrea and Somalia (*Netsanet, Dec. 11*).

A number of key military commanders have been sent to the northern front in the wake of the alleged Eritrean invasion. According to informed sources, the commanders were sent at the end of the long meetings in Addis Ababa convened to discuss the emergency situation (*Nigat, Dec. 9*).

According to the Ministry of Defense, Ethiopia has been reducing its troops after its victory over Eritrea in the recent war. It is also planning to reduce more in January and February.

Meanwhile, Eritrea has been busy training its soldiers by consolidating the Sawa military training centers. Eritrea has also secured an SU fighter plane and reinforced its Air Force capabilities. In addition, it has continued training Eritrean armed groups whom it hopes would destabilize Ethiopia. Accordingly, Eritrea is training members of the OLF, Somalia and Sidama liberation movements in Sawa (*Reporter, Dec. 3*).

Eritrean forces supported by tanks, heavy artillery and anti-aircraft missiles had seized key Ethiopian border areas after crossing the Mereb River, according to the private Tigrigna newspaper *Wegahta*. Eyewitnesses told "*Wegahta*" that Eritrean troops took full control of Deda and Sheshebit districts in Ethiopia (*Poletica, Nov. 26*).

A *Reuters* report indicated that the United Nations said on Thursday it had seen no evidence to support Ethiopian allegations that Eritrea was massing troops on the disputed border between the two neighbors. Ethiopia told the UN Security Council last week that Eritrea threatened to unleash a new round of fighting by deploying nearly 30,000 troops in the buffer zone set up to end their 1998-2000 border war (*Daily Monitor, Nov. 23*).

#### Land Mines:

35 people have been killed or maimed by landmines in the Afar Regional State in the last three months. Large scale demining programs and mine awareness education activities are being carried out in both Ethiopia and Eritrea to clear the areas and sensitize the people living in areas affected where mines were laid during the 2 year border war fought between the two countries (*IRIN, Dec. 10*).

The Government of Germany will donate 1.32mio birr to finance an advance survey mission to the planned landmine impact survey for Ethiopia. A press release issued by the German Embassy in Addis Ababa said the landmine impact survey would be conducted under the auspices of the Ethiopian Mine Action Office (EMAO) (*Radio Ethiopia, Nov. 22*).

## 2. Economics, Finance, Commerce

### State Revenues, Budgets, Economic Growth:

According to the Economist Intelligent Unit (EIU) Ethiopia will have an approximate 7% growth in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2002 when compared to the global GDP growth of 1.4 %. Despite Ethiopia's positive economic forecast, a local economic scholar says this should not necessarily be reason for jubilation. According to Dr. Tadesse Birru, an economics lecturer at Unity College, the forecast figure is not even close to what the country needs - 10 % - in order to sustain current living standards. - According to Tadesse, the current living standards in the country are a lot worse than they were 40 years ago. He said that in the Economic Freedom Index, Ethiopia is listed among the ranks of highly restricted economies. The government should liberalize the market in order to bring about sustainable development, he said. Ethiopia had a 4.1% growth in GDP in 2001 (*Fortune, Dec. 30*).

The Federal Revenue Minister has disclosed that Ethiopians returning home at the end of their studies or official assignments abroad and those returning from exile, can now enjoy duty free privileges on selected items. The items listed as untaxable are 73, including cars, satellite dishes, and computers. Ethiopians who wish to bring home property for investment in the country can also benefit from this privilege (*Radio Ethiopia, Dec. 15*).

The Federal Ministry of Revenue is to introduce Value Added Tax (VAT) in January 2002. Members of the Addis Ababa Chamber of Commerce (AACC) were briefed about the essence of the new type of tax by legal and tax experts from the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development and the Ministry of Revenue (*State media, Dec. 4*).

VAT will enable the government to collect taxes on every transaction of a given product where value is added at each stage of transaction. The new tax enhances the income of the government but it may produce adverse effects towards the general public as it raises prices of consumer goods, further devaluing the purchasing power of the birr, according to some

business men. Only businesses whose annual turnover is more than 500.000 birr will be liable for VAT. VAT will have zero % rating on exporters to encourage the export trade (*Entrepreneur, Dec. 6-12*).

### Debts, Grants, Loans and Credits:

An 11.7mio birr grant agreement was signed between the governments of Ethiopia and France. According to a press release issued by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MOFED), the grant will be used for the implementation of the animal products project, and to support legal reform in Ethiopia (*State media, Jan. 15*).

A loan by the World Bank, amounting to 355mio \$, is to be channeled towards funding development projects that the Ethiopian government plans to implement as part of its economic development program. The government intends to employ the bank's lending to finance the country's road network expansion, food security program, conservation and management of cultural heritage and capacity building of public sector management at federal and regional levels. The largest proportion of the loan, 250mio \$, will be used as part of the four billion birr fund assistance the government is seeking from creditors to shift to the second phase of its 10-year road sector development program. The first phase of the road program, which was launched three years ago, is expected to be completed in June 2002. The components of the second phase involve the rehabilitation of 77 km main roads, the upgrading of 931 km of main roads, and the construction of 237 km of new and 229 km of rural roads (*Fortune, Dec. 23*).

Ethiopia and Canada have signed a memorandum of understanding for a grant of 65mio birr. The main purpose of the grant is to increase agricultural production through improved water management in Amhara State. The project will be implemented over a period of six years (*ENA, Dec. 24*).

More loans were approved by the Council of Ministers with the ratification of a 49.3mio \$ loan agreement signed between the Federal Government and the African Development Bank (ADB). The loan will be used for the

construction of a dam along the Koga River in Mecha District of West Gojjam Zone of Amhara State. The ADB loan will be paid in 50 years with a low interest rate (*Radio Ethiopia, Dec. 14*).

The Government of Ethiopia and the African Development Bank (ADB) have signed an over 135mio US-\$ loan and grant agreement for three projects. The projects include the upgrading of the Butajira-Hossana-Sodo road and the master plan study of the Genale-Dawa Integrated Natural Resources Development. Part of the money will go to support the civil service reform program of the country (*State media, Nov. 20*).

The Ministry of Finance and Economic Development today announced that Ethiopia's foreign debt had gone down to 5.6 billion USD. Ethiopia's debt in July 1999 had stood at 10.2 billion. 80% of the money Ethiopia had owed to the former USSR had been canceled through the Paris Club agreement after the Russian Federation joined the club. The 20% balance had been included in debt relief and reshuffled as decided by the Paris Club member countries in the Naples Term Agreement. Currently, Ethiopia's total debt amounts to 5.2 billion U-\$. It owes 3.1 billion US-\$ to international organizations, 1.6 billion US-\$ to Paris Club member countries, and 0.6 billion US-\$ to debtor countries out of the club membership. The amount expected of Ethiopia in debt servicing to commercial debtors dwindled to 100mio \$ after the country was relieved of 80% of the total through debt cancellation (*state media, Nov. 23*).

The Italian Development Cooperation (IDC) disclosed that it had recently allocated close to 150mio Euros for various development activities in Ethiopia for three years. The director, Mr. Mauro Ghirotti, said that currently, IDC is undertaking various programs in rural development, health, education and infrastructure in Benishangul, Wello, Tigray, Somali and Afar. He also said that the recent Ethiopian Poverty Reduction Strategy paper (PRSP) would help the Cooperation strengthen its activities in the future. He indicated that IDC is currently making preparations to implement projects related to livestock

development in the Horn of Africa (*Daily Monitor*, Nov. 16).

Ethiopia has received a debt cancellation of 1.9 billion USD, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development announced. The ministry said Ethiopia was to pay the debt to financial institutions, donors and creditors over the next twenty years. The World Bank (WB) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) announced on Monday that Ethiopia had taken the necessary steps to qualify under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative. Ethiopia is one of the 24 countries which have qualified for debt relief under the initiative's enhanced framework. The HIPC debt relief from all of Ethiopia's creditors will amount to 47% of its total official external debt after traditional debt relief (corresponding to 1.9 billion USD in debt service relief over time), the report said. The resources made available by debt relief provided under the HIPC initiative will be allocated to key anti-poverty programs, which were outlined in Ethiopia's interim poverty reduction strategy paper. Poverty targeted expenditures were projected to increase steadily from 10.9% of GDP in 2000/2001 to 14.7% in 2001/2002 and 15.5% in 2002/2003, the report said (*ENA*, Nov. 13).

The African Development Fund (ADF) has approved a second structural adjustment loan (SALII) amounting to 60mio Units of Accounts - approximately US \$77.34mio - to assist Ethiopia to implement the reform program outlined in its Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (I-PRSP). According to a release by the African Development Bank Communications Unit, the objective of the reform program is to promote equitable growth and poverty reduction, and to achieve the international development goals, aimed at reducing by half the number of people living in poverty by 2015 (*Radio Ethiopia*, Nov. 8).

An agreement was signed with Germany providing for the reduction and rescheduling of Ethiopia's 24mio USD debt. The agreement is based on the economic reform program agreed between the IMF and Ethiopia as well as the Agreed Minutes between Ethiopia and the Paris Club creditors on April 5, 2001. The 53.2mio DM agreement

consists of credits guaranteed by the German Government including those secured from the former German Democratic Republic (GDR) and claims of the previous rescheduling agreements. A major part of this debt has been cancelled and the remaining rescheduled. As a result, Ethiopia's debt to Germany has been reduced by more than half to approximately 25mio DM (*state media*, Nov. 2).

#### Foreign Trade:

According to the International Coffee Organization, world coffee prices have reached a 30-year low, having declined by more than 70 % in the last four years alone. This is largely due to an excess supply of coffee consistently outstripping consumption. Over the last three years, Ethiopia has lost almost US \$167mio in export revenues as a result of the slump in coffee prices - an amount equivalent to almost half the country's annual export earnings (*State media*, Jan. 23).

Tsegaye Berhane, general manager of the state-owned Ethiopian Coffee and Tea Authority, said the country exported only 28,924 tons of coffee during the first four months of the selling season and earned 47mio \$. The income generated and the volume exported this year was less by 40% and 31% respectively compared with the same period last year, (*Fortune*, Dec. 30).

President Bush has renewed for another year the eligibility of 35 African countries for tariff preferences on exports to the United States. The White House announced Wednesday that the renewal reflects the continued progress made in these countries toward a market-based economy, the rule of law, free trade and economic policies that will reduce poverty and protect workers' rights. Ethiopia is one of the eligible countries (*VOA*, Jan. 3).

Ethiopia has started making further arms deals with a number of countries soon after its arms sales agreement with Russia. Reliable sources have said Ethiopia is negotiating with China and Belgium from where it had secured huge arms during the previous war with Eritrea. According to the sources, Ethiopia is trying to obtain the weapons it needs both for the Eritrean and Somali wars. The sources added

that Ethiopia might also get some financial support for this from the U.S. Meanwhile, Eritrea is also securing large quantities of arms and weapons from Arab countries where it is also training military personnel (*Genanaw*, Jan. 2).

*Moscow Times* has reported that Ethiopia has made an agreement with Russia to buy 10mio USD worth of weapons. The report said that both Ethiopia and Eritrea have renewed their relations of cooperation with Russia now that the UN has lifted a ban on arms sales to both countries. Ethiopia has already signed an arms deal while Eritrea is in the process of doing so. Both countries are reportedly interested in buying fighter jets and helicopters (*Menelik*, Dec. 28).

The Livestock Marketing Authority has revealed that Ethiopia was losing about 700mio birr annually due to illegal trade in live animals, hides and skin across the borders with neighboring countries. Ethiopia is the biggest livestock producer in Africa, and 25<sup>th</sup> worldwide, with 35 mio heads of cattle, 18.9 mio goats, 24 mio sheep and 53 mio poultry. But, despite this, it is the neighboring countries which are amassing fortunes through illicit live animal trade from Ethiopia, the authority said. Animals and animal products are mainly smuggled to Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, Eritrea and Yemen (*Daily Monitor*, Nov. 15).

Ethiopia plans to export more than 130,000 quintals of sugar to European markets this Ethiopian calendar year by making use of the opportunity to export Ethiopian goods free of tax and without quota limits, the Minister of Trade and Industry said. The Ministry will also identify and encourage prospective textile and garment exports to make effective use of the African Growth Opportunity Act (AGOA), which, the minister said, gives Ethiopia the chance to export the products to the U.S. tax free and without quota limits for the next eight years (*state media*, Nov. 15).

#### Investment and Investment Policy:

The president of Addis Ababa City Administration, Ato Ali Abdo, had announced the withdrawal of the Malaysian company, Adorna Shebele, from investing a large amount of money in the largest open market in Africa - Merkato.



Adorna Shebele, had planned to build a supermarket and shopping center in Merkato two years ago but refrained from moving to the next phase. Ato Ali said that the city administration was very keen on the project which would have changed part of Merkato into a modern shopping center. However, he said, during negotiations, Adorna Shebele demanded a commitment of 20mio USD from the city administration for the cost of construction for the many small-scale businesses and private houses that were to be destroyed to give way to the project (*Capital*, Dec. 30).

A tripartite joint venture between two Chinese companies, China Water Resources and China Gwangozoo, and a local company, Sur Construction, has offered 1.9bio birr to build the Tekeze hydroelectric power project. Three joint ventures, formed by a total of seven construction companies, have participated in the long awaited tender to take over the colossal job of constructing the planned 180-meters dam on the Tekeze River, located in Tigray State. The barrage will shelter a power plant with a capacity to generate 300MW of electric power. The lowest offer of the bid, 1,938mio birr, came from the joint venture created by three companies (*Fortune*, Dec. 9).

#### Technical Assistance, Development Projects:

The Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MoFED) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) signed a 140.5mio USD cooperation agreement. According to the agreement, UNICEF will make the money available during the coming five years (2002-2006). State Minister of MoFED, Dr. Mulu Ketsela, said that the cooperation agreement was based on government policies and priorities, and focused on health and nutrition, mother and childcare, as well as on basic education. 84 % of the funds have been allocated for states, 10 % for relevant federal coordinating bodies and the rest for the Addis Ababa City Administration (*ETV*, Jan. 8).

The European Union has approved a new project amounting to 15mio Euros, equivalent to more than 110

million birr, for Ethiopia's coffee sector. The project comes as part of a move to assist the sector with the current crisis. The allocated fund will be provided in the form of a comprehensive package that involves giving support to the marketing of coffee through the improvement of production. The EU's Country Strategy Paper for Ethiopia, involving 500mio Euros worth of aid projects to be implemented from 2002-2007, was approved by EU countries in Brussels. 50% of the fund will go to the transportation sector, 25% to economic reform, 15% to food security and 5% to support good governance and strength civil society (*Entrepreneur*, Dec. 20-26).

The African Development Fund (ADF) has approved a Technical Assistance Fund grant of 663,540 USD to finance the capacity building of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development. The objective of the project is to build the project implementation capacity of the relevant federal ministries and the state bureaus so that government organs could effectively coordinate, implement and monitor the development projects. The projects include the training of about 1,080 staff of the Ministries of Health, Education, Agriculture, Water Resources and Finance as well as of bureaus in nine states and two administrations on procurement, disbursement and monitoring (*ENA*, Dec. 12).

Germany had announced that it would provide 222mio birr for Ethiopia's economic and social development for the year 2001. This, it was said, was the result of the Ethio-German negotiations which took place on Oct. 29/30 in Bonn. The support package will include projects in the sustainable use of national resources for improved food security, capacity building in government and administration, vocational training as well as additional funding for the Addis Ababa-Gedo road project. According to the embassy release, Ethiopia is a priority country for German development cooperation. The total volume of German support for Ethiopia amounts to 3.7 billion birr (*State media*, Oct. 31).

#### NGOs:

The Ethiopian Social Rehabilitation and Development

Fund (ESRDF) has said that it has completed 2,615 projects in the last 5 years. In a statement to the press, ESRDF general manager with the rank of minister, Dr. Assefa Abraha, said 36 % of the projects are water supply projects. The fund has finalized the first phase of its work and is about to launch the second round program. ESRDF is one of the poverty alleviation programs launched by the government (*Tobia*, Jan. 10).

About 40 local institutions in six states have benefited from a two-year voluntary service of foreign nationals sponsored by Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO), a London-based non-governmental international development agency. The director of VSO-Ethiopia, John Drysdale, said that 71 volunteers from ten different nationalities are currently working in various organizations and institutions in Tigray, Oromiya, Amhara, Gambella, Benishangul-Gumuz and Southern Peoples' states. The majority of the volunteers are working in education. Most of the VSO volunteers working in Ethiopia come from Britain, and the rest are from France, Spain, Holland, Sweden, Denmark, America, Canada and the Philippines (*ETV*, Dec. 29).

The Amhara Development Association (ADA) has undertaken various development projects in Amhara State at a cost of over 80.9mio birr over the last four years. The projects included the construction of health and education facilities, infrastructure and capacity building activities. The head of the Amhara State Council said that ADA would mobilize Amharas in the country to enhance their contribution in the development endeavors of the State (*Radio Ethiopia*, Dec. 22).

The Catholic Relief Service Ethiopia (CRS), a U.S.-based international NGO disclosed that it is undertaking various development programs in Ethiopia, valued at over 60mio birr. The implementation of the projects began in Oct. 2001 and will be carried out until Sep. 2002. The projects are currently carried out in East Harerge and East Shoa zones of Oromiya Region, East Tigray Zone, Dire Dawa, Harar and Addis Ababa (*Monitor*, Dec. 22).

Preparations are underway to introduce a new NGO Legislation

in year 2002 in Ethiopia. Speaking at the closing ceremony of the first Regional NGO Day 2001 in Awassa, Ato Kebede Asrat, Executive Director of Christian Relief and Development Association (CRDA) said that the new NGO legislation would introduce a more streamlined regulatory framework to further the work and growth of NGOs in Ethiopia (*Daily Monitor, Dec. 19*).

#### Privatisation:

The Ethiopian Privatization Agency (EPA) has completed arrangements to privatize 110 state-owned enterprises from year 2002-2003. The General Manager of the Ethiopian Investment Authority (EIA), said that the agency has so far privatized more than 200 enterprises sold to Ethiopian and foreign investors. The agency sold 98 % ownership of one enterprise for 20 years while another enterprise was leased. - He disclosed that 1,890 investors are currently undertaking various development projects with a capital of 15 billion birr in different parts of the country (*Daily Monitor, Jan. 3*).

#### Transport and Communication:

The high-level delegation that went to Djibouti last month had something unusual to propose to Ismael Omar Guelleh, president of the Republic of Djibouti. The Ethiopian delegation gave the president a written proposal asking his government to consider two offers from Ethiopia. They proposed that Ethiopia be given about 49 % of the stake with the administration that controls the Port of Djibouti and has been running the port until the Dubai Port International came to take over the management in a 20-year concession in 1999. The second offer put on the table was the option of giving Ethiopia its own space within the port that it would use and operate independently paying certain fees to Djibouti. These offers are said to have been turned down by President Ismael Guelleh (*Fortune, Jan. 13*).

Prime Minister Meles has travelled to Port Sudan on the Red Sea on Tuesday to inaugurate port facilities and a duty free zone for the transport of goods and Sudanese oil to Ethiopia (*Daily Monitor, Jan. 10*).

Only 20 % of the Ethiopian population has access to modern transport systems while the remaining 80 % still use donkeys, mules or travel by foot. According to the head of the public relations and information department of the Ethiopian Roads Authority, this is due to the lack of adequate road transport systems and the low level of the national economy (*Ethiopia Zare, Jan. 6*).

The 185 km. Azezo-Metema road that links Ethiopia with Sudan will be opened later this year. Sur Construction, which is building the road, said it would complete the construction by next March. For its part, the Ethiopian Roads Authority said it would finalize everything by June. The Ethiopian government has allocated 102mio birr for the road project (*Abiotawi Democracy, Dec. 19-26*).

#### Other Issues:

A new government office will be opened in order to review the resolution on the land lease policy, Abay Tsehaye, Minister of Federal Affairs, said. Within one year, the new office will devise long-lasting solutions to the problems in real estate development, taxation and other urban planning issues, he said. The resolution, drafted by the Land Lease Office, the Addis Ababa City Administration and the Ministry of Federal Affairs, along with participants from regional states and investors, addressed various urban planning issues. Some of the main suggestions include the need for a housing and urban planning policy. that lease should be made affordable, that all lease be extended for a term of 99 years, that the auctioning of land be fair and that there be communication between landholders and the government when land is expropriated for development purposes (*Entrepreneur, Dec. 27-Jan. 2*).

The president of Oromiya State, Ato Junedin Sado, said that the Oromiya State Administration would implement the state's revised lease policy and investment incentives after three weeks. He declared that improvements have been made on advance payment, lease tariff and grace period as well as in the disbursement of lease money. Accordingly, the existing 25 % advance payment would be totally lifted and the duration for the disbursement of lease money

would be improved from 70 years to 80 years for first class plots in first class towns and from 60 years to 80 years for real estate development plots, he said. Investors in the state will get a 1-3 year grace period and urban plots in some towns would also be provided lease-free (*Radio Ethiopia, Dec. 26*).

In good news for civil servants, the Council of Ministers has endorsed the bill providing for the salary restructuring of the civil service. The bill will be effective as of January 2002. It provides for salary increments to government appointees, civil servants and managers. An additional annual budget of about 700mio birr is needed to effect the salary increment. Part of this budget will go for subsidy for salary increments for civil servants in the states. The 1.85 billion birr supplementary budget will be effective after approval by the House of Representatives (*state media, Nov. 23*).

The House of Peoples' Representatives has approved a 200 birr minimum wage for employees in the civil service. The House endorsed over 280mio birr in supplementary budget to cover the additional government expenditure ensuing from the salary adjustment. The adjustment was approved on Tuesday, after the House took note of the rising cost of living in Ethiopia and the increasing number of civil servants quitting to seek better paying jobs in the private sector. The current minimum wage in the civil service is 105 birr (*Monitor, Nov. 5*).

### **3. Agriculture, Food Aid, Drought**

#### Extension:

The president of Oromiya State has said that the formulation of an institutional framework that deals with pastoral affairs and the economy should be given much attention in order to involve lowlanders in the country's development endeavors. Ethiopian pastoralists have been neglected as marginal groups, he said, adding that it is now time to give more attention to the problem of pastoralists and livestock development in the arid lowlands of Oromiya (*Radio Ethiopia, Jan. 22*).

The Ministry of Agriculture has said the number of farmers in the

agricultural extension program had risen from 36,600 in 1995 to 3.8 million in 2000/2001. Ato Belay Ejigu said this was because of the introduction of improved agricultural techniques and the concerted efforts of agricultural institutions. (*Radio Ethiopia*, Nov. 19).

#### Drought, Flood, Famine and Food Aid:

The Assistance Requirements and Implementation Strategy for the year 2002 was launched on Wednesday. The strategy was initiated by the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission (DPPC) and designed by a technical committee comprising government representatives, donors, the UN and NGOs. The document disclosed that some 5.2 million people are in need of relief food. Commissioner Simon Mechale said that the recurrent drought was caused not only by lack of rain but also by underdevelopment and capacity limitation. Ato Simon said that the recent estimate shows that about 427,215 MT of food relief is needed for the acute and chronic needs in 2002 (*State media*, Jan.23).

A *Reuters* report indicated that over two million drought affected people in northern and eastern Ethiopia will need food aid starting next month, relief officials said. A crop assessment mission including officials from the UN World Food Program had confirmed food shortages there. The assessment mission has concluded that over 800,000 residents of Gode, Korahe and Warder in Somali region needed a monthly provision of around 12,000 tons of grain for the coming 6 months. Residents of the region's Jijiga, Shinile, Degehabour, Liben and Fik zones needed a similar assistance (*Daily Monitor*, Jan. 7).

The South Wello Zone Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Department in Amhara State said out of the 600,000 people affected by food shortage in the zone, 302,181 were in need of emergency relief food assistance for the coming nine months. A crop assessment study indicated that acute food shortages due to the predicated sharp fall in crop harvest this year would affect the people. This year's harvest will drop by over 1.1 mio q against

the forecast 4.2 mio q. The fall is attributed to erratic rainfall, flooding, hailstorm, pest and weed infestations that affected 177,332 hectares of farmland in the zone (*Walta Information Center*, Dec. 14).

The Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission disclosed that about 35,856 mt of relief grain and over 11mio birr for transportation costs had been obtained from donor countries over the last quarter of the year for drought affected people in the country. The commission's quarterly report indicated that what was acquired was 60% of the required amount. The commission said women constituted 49% of the recipients in Amhara, Oromiya, and Southern Peoples' states. The commission also obtained over 25,154 mt of relief grain and 34mio birr in cash for people displaced by the Eritrean war (*ENA*, Dec. 5).

#### Other Issues:

Experts from the International Coffee Organization have carried out the first phase of a study to confirm that Ethiopia is producing organic coffee, according to the Coffee and Tea Authority. The country is expected to be certified as a producer of organic coffee this year. More than 80% of the 250,000 tons of coffee the country produces annually is organic, because most of the country's farmers grow coffee without using agricultural inputs such as fertilizer and pesticides. The country's organic coffee, however, has never been officially certified as being organic (*Entrepreneur*, Jan. 3-9).

A senior researcher has recommended that policy measures be taken to stabilize maize prices which have been falling recently. The researcher, Dr. Aberra Deressa, warned that unless price stabilization is effected, farmers may give up growing the crop. He said the price of a quintal of maize had fallen sharply to two or three birr (*ENA*, Nov. 11).

#### Environment:

Addis Ababa University (AAU) is undertaking research on six types of indigenous trees which are said to be on the verge of extinction. Dr. Legesse Negash from the

Biology Department of AAU told *Walta* that the research is on the reproduction of *prunus africanus* (tikur inchet), *erythrina abessinica* (korch), *syzygium guineense* (dokma), fig tree (shola), *juniperus procera* (yeabesha tsid) and olive tree (woira). According to Dr. Legesse, the research has discovered the reproduction of *podocarpus* (zigba), *cardia africana* (wanza), *hygenia abessinica* (kosso), *juniperus procera*, *mullettia ferruginea* (birbira), the varieties of *acacia abessinica* (girar) and olive tree (*Radio Ethiopia*, Jan. 19).

Wild fires, which in 2000 caused more than 39m US\$ of damage in the southern Bale and Borena regions alone, have destroyed many of the forested areas of the country. "Ethiopia is one of the biodiversity hot spots of the world," geographer Eve Guinandi, who helped compile the report, told *IRIN*. "It is the home of coffee. There are many indigenous species and plants. There are trees that only exist there. But all these could be lost forever. What a fire may destroy in minutes may be impossible – or may take hundreds of years – to replace (*IRIN*).

Sorene, one of the Ethiopian endemic birds, is on the verge of extinction, the Amhara state agriculture bureau said. The expert attributed the precarious condition of the bird to the ever-increasing hunting of birds for medicinal purposes. Another reason, he said, was the destruction of the bird's habitat due to the clearing of forests for farming and the construction of residential units. He said Sorene is currently found in North Shoa and North Gonder zones of Amhara State. The bureau and the Ethiopian Natural Resources History Association are distributing posters bearing the picture of the bird in order to save the species from extinction (*ENA*, Dec. 27).

#### **4. Tourism**

The Ethiopian Security and Immigration Affairs Authority has disclosed that it has introduced a new visa delivery mechanism through which nationals of 33 main tourist-generating countries could collect Ethiopian tourist visa upon arrival at Bole Airport. The new directive is aimed at promoting tourism in Ethiopia. It

was said that it would also remove bureaucratic bottlenecks against the development of the tourist industry. The eligible 33 countries are: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea Republic, Kuwait, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, United Kingdom and the United States (*Waiba Information Service, Jan. 16*).

## 5. Social, Cultural and Political Aspects

### International Terrorism:

Somali warlord Hussein Aideed had warned that strikes in Somalia against terrorist groups could be counterproductive by angering the people and turning them into supporters of Al-Itihad Al-Islamiya. Aideed claimed that he was better placed militarily than the Northern Alliance of Afghanistan to deal with the terrorists in a short time – provided he was given assistance. Mr. Aideed also claimed that he controlled most of Somalia and accused leaders of the Transitional National Government (TNG), notably President Abdulkassim Salat, of being major supporters of Al-Itihad Al-Islamiya (*Tomar, Dec. 25*).

Ethiopia has dispatched its mechanized army to Somalia along two fronts. According to *Finote Democracy Radio*, the U.S. and its supporters have already started preparations to attack Al-Qaeda and Al-Itihad terrorist organizations operating in Somalia (*Netsebrak, Dec. 17*).

A Somalia-based English-language newspaper has condemned Ethiopia for inciting the U.S. to open a war campaign on Somalia. *Ayahama* said the U.S. is targeting Somalia on the recommendations of Ethiopia which believes that Somalia is harboring Moslem fundamentalists. Indicating that Ethiopia is doing so to protect its own interests, *Ayahama's* article said Ethiopia fought three wars with Somalia in the last three decades showing that it aims at

the total disintegration of Somalia (*Ze-Press, Dec. 13*).

One of Somalia's numerous armed factions on Monday offered its help in the international war against terrorism by inviting coalition forces to use its bases and men. The RRA would welcome in its fiefdom of Bay and Bakol region outside military forces who are truly fighting terrorism, Mohammed Aden Ali Qalinle, a top RRA told. He said the RRA has become aware of local Islamic groups with links to international terrorists. The Transitional National Government (TNG) founded last year by the TNA in Djibouti is a nest of religious extremists, said Qalinle, who is also the governor of the Bay region in south-central Somalia (*This Day, December 11*).

A Somali national suspected of having links with terrorist groups has been apprehended in front of the Israeli embassy in Addis Ababa. The man known as Nur Olad was caught while trying to enter the embassy to talk to embassy officials. A number of photographs, thousands of dollars were found in his wallet. The identity of the photographs of Ethiopians he was holding has not been disclosed (*Tomar, Nov. 28*).

As the second round of anti-terrorism war is about to be launched in Somalia, Ethiopia has reportedly closed its borders with Somalia. The Ethiopian government has already closed down the Somali-operated Al-Barakaat money transfer company, which is suspected of having close links with Osama bin Laden's Al-Qaeda movement. - Meanwhile, Ethiopia has also deployed a large number of its troops to southern and eastern Ethiopia. In other news, over 10,000 Somalis in Ethiopia have been issued temporary ID cards. - In yet other news, a high-level U.S. military delegation was in Addis Ababa for a working visit. The U.S. military delegation held talks with officials of the Ministry of Defence. The U.S. delegation is reportedly drawing up a strategy with Ethiopian officials on ways of starting the anti-terrorism campaign in Somalia (*Zarenew, Nov. 17*).

A number of alleged "hawala" centers, in Addis Ababa suspected of illegal money transfer were closed down on Nov. 12. According to eye

witnesses, lightly armed police shut down the offices and apprehended some people from the office of Al-Barakaat, which operates near the Rwanda Embassy where Ethiopian Somalis and Somalis are concentrated. Whether they were taken for questioning or formally arrested, it is not known. A staff reporter who approached the Al-Barakaat office found out that the building is being watched by members of the federal police (*The Reporter, Nov. 14*).

### Elections, Government:

The National Electoral Board had said that seven political parties, including the Southern Ethiopia People's Democratic Union (SEP-DU), the Council for Alternative Forces for Peace and Democracy in Ethiopia (CAFPDE) and the Ethiopian Democratic Party (EDP) were contesting for seats in the council in the zonal and district elections in South Ethiopia on Dec. 23 (*State media, Dec. 22*). The Southern Ethiopia People's Democratic Union (SEPU) disclosed that it would not participate in the elections in half of the zones of the state. The 7 candidates fielded by EDP in Awassa zone have been disqualified for not speaking the language of the community (*Addis Admas, Dec. 22*). Four days later, it was reported that election coordinators had said that election results in Welaita, Arba Minch and Gurage zones had been officially declared. Candidates fielded by the EPRDF-affiliated Welaita People's Democratic Movement won the elections in the Sodo Zuria, Bolososore, Damotagale and Afa districts. The Gurage Zone Democratic Movement also won the elections in the 62 polling stations and the Gamo Gofa Zone Democratic Organization was the winner in Arba Minch town (*Radio Ethiopia, Dec. 26*).

The House of Peoples' Representatives has endorsed the new 18-member cabinet of the government as presented by Prime Minister Meles Zenawi. The Prime Minister said that the ministers were selected on the basis of political competence and professional efficiency, and ability to implement the policy of the ruling party.

### Opposition-Related Issues:

There have been renewed attacks against EPRDF forces in different parts of Oromiya where chaos and instability have long been the rule of the day because of armed Oromo insurgency. According to reports from Oromiya State, armed clashes have been reported between government troops and unidentified armed insurgents in Nekempte and Ambo towns. Reliable sources have said that OLF forces may not be the only ones operating in these areas but that there are also other yet unidentified groups that are fighting government forces. In the last few days, residents of Ambo town have been dragged to prison as OLF suspects (*Genanaw*, Nov. 21).

#### Crime, Corruption and Legal Affairs:

The Federal Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission has filed charges of abuse of power against 54 present and former officials of the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia (CBE) and businesspersons. Some of the accused also face other charges of corruption. The charges indicate that CBE officials had conspired to secure for the accused businesspersons unlawful loans amounting to over one billion birr. Request by the accused for release on bail was denied by the court (*Reporter*, Jan. 9).

Officials of private banks are among the 54 bankers and businessmen indicted by the Federal Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission. They include Ato Amare Gashaw of Dashen Bank, Ato Aberra Mekonnen of Hibert Bank, Ato Girma Aredo of Nib International Bank and Ato Zewdu Ayele of Abyssinia Bank (*Ethio-News*, Jan. 10).

#### Churches and Religion:

Muslims and Orthodox Christians clashed in Kemisse town on the Dessie road on Jan. 20. The incident occurred when the Christians were taking their "tabots" to church after they had spent the night at the baptismal river on the occasion of Epiphany. At least one person was killed and vehicles were smashed. Tension between the two communities has risen following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the U.S (*Ethop*, Jan. 23).

The Ethiopian "tabot" or representation of the Ark of the Covenant, in Edinburgh, Scotland, will be handed over to Ethiopia. The Ethiopian delegation, led by Archbishop Issayas, and a representative of the Ethiopian Embassy in London, is expected to arrive at Waverly Station, Edinburgh, on Jan. 28, and will attend an official ceremony at the Edinburgh City Chamber (*Addis Tribune*, Jan. 25).

A holy tablet, tabot, looted from Ethiopia in the mid-19th century by soldiers of the Napier expedition has been found in a Scottish church. A *BBC* report quoted a minister of the Scottish Episcopal St. John Church as saying he found the tabot covered in leather in a cupboard where it was kept untouched for 130 years. The minister told the *BBC* that he had no difficulty identifying the tabot to have been the property of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church as he had worked in Addis Ababa for sometime. After storming Atse Tewodros's stronghold, Napier's expeditionary force looted 15 elephant and 200 mule loads of relics and various property. The tabot is expected to be returned to Ethiopia early next year (*Radio Ethiopia*, Dec. 6).

#### News about Culture and History:

The Authority for Research and Conservation of Cultural Heritages (ARCCH) has said that the proposal for the main phase of the restoration of the Lalibela rock-hewn churches submitted to the European Development Fund Committee had received the unanimous approval of EU member states. The new fund is estimated to be 75mio birr. Included in the project from the 11 rock-hewn Lalibela churches, cut out of natural rock 800 years ago, are Bete Medhanealem, Bete Mariam, Bete Amanuel, Bete Aba Libanos and Bete Meskel, the release said (*State media*, Dec. 29).

Norway has donated Nok 7.6mio (app. 0.84mio USD) for the restoration and rehabilitation of the Fasilades Bath located in North Gonder Zone of Amhara State. The restoration work will take five years, a press release said. Fasilades Bath is used for Timket ceremony and is on UNESCO's world heritage list (*ETV*, Dec. 18).

Foreign Minister Seyoum Mesfin had said Ethiopia has requested the Italian Government to respect the agreement it signed to return the Axum Obelisk looted by Mussolini's Fascist forces. Prime Minister Meles Zenawi has written an open letter to his Italian counterpart, Silvio Berlusconi, to this effect, he said. Ato Seyoum said a comprehensive study had been conducted to enable Ethiopian and Italian experts to dismantle and relocate the obelisk, that currently stands in Rome (*ETV*, Dec. 16).

The culture, tourism and information department of Western Tigray zone disclosed that a team of Ethiopian and British archaeologists had unearthed clay house utensils, ornaments and silver coins in the zone believed to have been used during the Axumite period. They were found in a place called Mai Adrasha. The ornaments, carved in human images, suggest the relationship the Axumites had with Far East countries. Meanwhile, 4 rock-hewn churches believed to be 1,500 years old were discovered recently through excavations undertaken in Wegdi and Makdella districts of South Wello Zone. The churches, carved from a mountain, had a number of ancient paintings, parchments, crosses, church garments and crowns (*State media*, Dec. 1).

World and Olympic champion Gezahegn Abera made two wins in three years in Japan's Fukuoka International Marathon on Dec.2. Abera, who won a gold medal at last year's Sydney Olympics and at the world championships in Edmonton in August, held off a strong challenge from home runner Koji Shimizu. He pulled away from Shimizu to win in 2 h, 9 min and 25 sec (*BBC*, Dec. 2).

#### Poverty:

Over 40,000 destitutes living in 14 homes in the country run by the Missionaries of Charity (Mother Theresa's Home) have been benefiting from Monetization. Monetization is a process by which donors, primarily USAID, provide U.S. agricultural commodities for public sale to generate funds for food security related development programs. In addition, life saving feeding programs for HIV/AIDS victims, orphans and underweight children, as being taken care of

by the Missionaries of Charity, greatly benefit from monetization. At the Sidist kilo home, there are over 700 destitute, disabled and sick people being looked after by the sisters of the Missionaries of Charity. The charity work throughout Ethiopia is being carried out with an annual budget of 38.8mio birr, out of which 30mio birr is provided by the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) (*Business Review*, Dec. 13).

There are an estimated 100,000 street children in Ethiopia at present. The manager of Goal Ethiopia Street Children Care Project, said the spread of HIV/AIDS in Ethiopia is increasing the number of street children. Over 80 % of street children are forced to live a dismal life because of poverty while the rest are driven to the streets because of other reasons such as war and natural disasters, she said (*Tobia*, Nov. 15).

#### Other Social and Political Issues:

Women at Risk, a group under SIM (Society of International Missionaries) has disclosed in a study that there are over 100,000 prostitutes in Ethiopia although no countrywide census has been taken. Of the total, about 75-85% carry HIV virus. Women at Risk has trained 112 women in various skills in the past five years and rehabilitated them (*Ze-Press*, Jan. 23).

The Council of Ministers had endorsed a bill granting Ethiopians with foreign passports special rights and privileges. The bill was endorsed to allow Ethiopians in the Diaspora to take part directly in development activities and contribute their share in national development. In addition, articles in the proclamation that required Ethiopian-born foreign citizens to have entry visas and resident permits have been repealed. Special IDs, to be renewed periodically, will also be issued to the Ethiopians (*Radio Ethiopia*, Jan. 4).

The confrontation between workers and employers in Ethiopia is becoming more serious with each side accusing the other of sabotage. Representatives of the nine labor federations met in Addis Ababa to discuss how to go about protecting workers' rights. The Confederation of Ethiopian Trade

Unions (CETU) had earlier issued a strong statement warning the government to take speedy action to stop the arbitrary firing of workers by employers. CETU had said that if this warning is not heeded, the union would call a nationwide strike. At the meeting, the nine workers' federations endorsed CETU's call to prepare for a nationwide collective action if the government fails to take the required measures (*VOA* (Dec. 4).

#### Foreign Relations:

Prime Minister Meles Zenawi has said that the bilateral cooperation between Ethiopia and Sudan had shown remarkable progress. On arrival in Khartoum, he told journalists that the strong Ethio-Sudanese bilateral relations had created a conducive atmosphere to raise the economic cooperation to a higher level. Ethiopia and Sudan have made efforts to bring peace and stability to the Horn, and have also redirected their attention to development, Ato Meles said (*State media*, Jan. 8).

The IGAD summit has wound up with a resolution calling on Kenya, Ethiopia and Djibouti to coordinate their efforts to bring about national reconciliation in Somalia. The resolution said IGAD's current chairman, Sudanese President Omar Hassen Al-Bashir, would supervise the three countries' reconciliation efforts in Somalia. It was decided that a reconciliation conference on Somalia would be held in Nairobi within two months. The summit called on the Transitional National Government (TNG) of Somalia and other parties to commit themselves to combat terrorism in all its forms. It asked the international community to join IGAD in establishing peace in Somalia. It also urged the Sudanese government and the rebel groups in Sudan to move expeditiously towards a peaceful settlement of the conflict (*state media*, Jan. 11).

The TNG of Somalia has said that Ethiopian forces had been deployed in Puntland in northeastern Somalia, and demanded their withdrawal. Reuters reported that the Ethiopian government is providing assistance to Somalia's opposition forces. Ethiopian authorities have, however, denied the allegations. The spokesman of the Ministry of foreign Affairs told that Ethiopia has made continuous efforts to bring peace

and reconciliation to Somalia and would continue to do so. He categorically rejected press reports that Ethiopia had deployed its forces inside Somalia (*VOA*, Jan. 8).

Foreign Minister Seyoum Mesfin told the organ of the TPLF, the Tigrigna language newspaper *Weyin*, that an EPLF force was stationed in Somalia. Ato Seyoum said the reason for the deployment of the forces in Somalia was to disrupt peace and security in Ethiopia. The forces are operating under the guidance and in close consultation with Al-Itihad and OLF groups, he said (*Ethiopia Zare*, Jan. 6).

Foreign Minister Seyoum Mesfin had reportedly warned the Djibouti government during his recent one-day visit to Djibouti. Ethiopia is unhappy about Djibouti's sheltering of Ethiopian opposition groups and its new hostility towards the EPRDF (*Moged*, Jan. 5).

#### Nile Waters:

Ethiopia, Sudan and Egypt have agreed to implement the agreements reached on the development of the Eastern Nile, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced. The ministers agreed to establish the Eastern Nile Technical Committee Office in Addis Ababa and start its activities in March 2002. They also agreed to establish the Eastern Nile Investment Forum (ENVEST) that would be entrusted with the task of jointly developing the projects by encouraging entrepreneurs to generate funds for the activities. The three countries have requested the World Bank to organize the forum (*ETV*, Jan. 13).

## **6. Education**

The Alemaya University of Agriculture (AUA) has announced plans to start a new postgraduate curriculum in agricultural extension programs. The agriculture faculty dean, Dr. Assefa Asmare, said the curriculum was endorsed last year. The program aims at helping farmers increase productivity. The curriculum will enable graduates to solve problems by being innovative, he said. The program will become effective next academic year. So far, the university has graduated



over 200 students in agricultural extension in bachelors degree programs (*Radio Ethiopia, Jan. 13*).

Saudi magnate Sheik Mohammed Hussein Al-Amoudi's Midroc Ethiopia is financing long-term plans of establishing a chain of education centers ranging from kindergartens to primary, secondary and tertiary levels at different selected sites within the environs of Addis Ababa. The newly formed company, Meti/Midroc Education and Training Institute, under the umbrella of Midroc Ethiopia, is carrying out the project. Professor Johannes Kinfu, deputy general manager of the institute and training director at Midroc Ethiopia, told that the long-term project envisages to set up four kindergarten schools, three primary schools and one university in different phases. The estimated cost of the entire project is 200mio birr (*Fortune, Jan. 13*).

## 7. Health

The number of AIDS orphans in Ethiopia has reached the one million mark, according to the Ministry of Health, placing an even greater strain on the country's already limited and stretched social services. Ethiopia has the third largest population in the world with the HIV virus. The Ethiopian Government needs international help to deal with the crisis. The World Bank has already given a \$59mio loan to the government to help tackle the crisis. Other agencies are pouring in funds to help with health care and education (*IRIN, Dec. 14*).

The Ethiopian Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists has called for the adoption of liberal abortion law in the country that would mitigate maternal deaths due to unsafe and illegal abortions. The association's president told that the law should be formulated to accommodate the existing reality on the ground. Bickering over whether abortion should be made legal or not is another issue in the face of the rising number of maternal deaths due to illegal abortion which, she said, accounted for more than 54% of deaths in Addis Ababa alone. She said that pregnancies which occur through rape, inefficacy of contraceptives as well as pregnancies that

endanger the life of the mother, should be given free access to safe abortion (*Walta Information Center, Nov. 29*).

The BBC has reported that an estimated 40,000 children under the age of 15 in Addis Ababa live with the AIDS virus. The report said that all of the victims are orphans. It was also reported that over 380,000, out of the more than three million HIV carriers in Ethiopia, live in Addis (*Seife Nebelbal, Nov. 30*).

## 8. Human Rights

### Freedom of Press:

The editor-in-chief of *Capital*, the business weekly, Behailu Dessalegn, was detained at District 3 police station on Oct. 31 and released on a 2000-birr bail guarantee. Moha Soft Drinks initiated charges of slander against the editor for featuring a story about the company's disputes with people who claimed to have won car prizes (*Mebrek, Nov. 1*).

"Fana Democracy", the former publisher of *Efoita* newspaper and magazine, has been officially closed down and the premises have been sealed by the Rental Houses Administration Agency. *Efoita* had ceased appearing after its editor, Tesfaye Gebreab, defected aboard (*Ruh, Nov. 1*).

### Other Issues:

Ten Oromo students of the Alemaya University have been arrested by government security forces. It is not yet known why the students were arrested, but observers said this is part of the campaign by the government to divide students and weaken their unity (*Tikussat, Jan. 16*).

550 out of the 670 Oromos thrown behind bars 7 years ago on charges of being OLF supporters have been released. The Oromos were kept in prison without appearing in court to answer charges that they had destabilized the country's security (*Goh, Jan. 13*).

Government security forces have begun another round of mass arrest of Oromo youth especially in Nekempe (Wellega) and Ambo (West Shoa). Informed sources, said a large number of Oromo youth and adults were rounded up and detained recently. The recent massacre of Oromos in Borana is believed to have provoked Oromos everywhere to rebellion

against the EPRDF, the sources said (*Genanaw, Dec. 13*).

## 9. Internal Security

At least 17 people were killed and about 100 others wounded in armed clashes between Oromos of Borena zone and government forces. The armed clashes were provoked by the government's attempts to disarm the Oromos of Borena. The Oromos refused to do so on grounds that they need the arms to defend themselves and their livestock against beasts. In other news, armed fighting has broken out between members of the EPRDF-assisted Oromo Geda musical band and Oromos of Nedjo, Western Oromiya. The incident occurred when a member of the band injured a local Oromo student and tried to escape. A number of people were injured (*Netsanet, Dec. 4*).

An armed conflict has erupted in the Negelle Borana area, in southern Ethiopia, between armed Somali and Oromo communities. Numerous lives have been lost. Oromo survivors of the conflict are being hunted down and imprisoned. The conflict broke out after the refusal of the federal and Oromiya governments to respond to Oromo requests for the return of their grazing land, which they said, was unlawfully incorporated into Somali State (*Zarenew, Nov. 17*).